



**TO: Pharmacies, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Dental Providers, Physician Assistants, Optometrists, Podiatrists, Long Term Care Providers, Clinics, Hospitals**

**RE: Expansion of Coverage For Over The Counter (OTC) Products**

This bulletin serves to inform providers that, pursuant to new legislation resulting from essential health benefits mandated by the Affordable Care Act, the Department of Social Services (DSS) will expand coverage of Over-the-Counter (OTC) medications for certain adults.

Effective July 1, 2014, coverage of OTC medications will be expanded to include:

- Aspirin for men ages 45 to 79 years when the potential benefit due to a reduction in myocardial infarctions outweighs the potential harm due to an increase in gastrointestinal hemorrhage
- Aspirin for women ages 55 to 79 years when the potential benefit of a reduction in ischemic strokes outweighs the potential harm of an increase in gastrointestinal hemorrhage
- Folic acid supplementation in all women planning or capable of pregnancy

Coverage for aspirin in the above referenced age groups will be limited to 81 and 325 mg. At this time, DSS will allow OTC aspirin regardless of diagnosis.

Coverage for folic acid in ALL women above the age of 21 will be limited to supplements containing 0.4 to 0.8 mg (400 to 800 µg) of

folic acid. At this time, DSS will consider all women capable of pregnancy.

**Clients under the age of 21 will continue to have coverage for medications included in the therapeutic classes identified in the OTC Formulary.** To identify which therapeutic classes are included in the OTC formulary, please refer to Chapter 8.9 of the pharmacy provider manual. The provider manual can be accessed from the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com). From the Home page, go to Information > Publications, scroll down to the Provider Manual Chapter 8, select Pharmacy from the dropdown menu and click View Chapter 8.

