Introducing the Half Tablet program

The Half Tablet program will be implemented for Anthem Blue Cross Medi-Cal Managed Care members during the first quarter of 2016. The Half Tablet program is a simple way to lower the cost of prescription drugs. Savings are achieved when prescriptions are written for medications included on the Half Tablet program drug list for double the prescribed strength with directions to cut the tablets in half to achieve the correct dosage.

Drugs that are included in the Half Tablet program are taken once a day and have been clinically reviewed to confirm that pill splitting will not reduce patient compliance or efficacy of the medication. These drug categories will be included:

- Antipsychotics/Antimanic agents
- Antihyperlipidemics
- Antidiabetics
- Antihypertensives
- Antianxiety agents
- Calcium channel blockers
- Beta blockers
- Antidepressants
- Antivirals

Tablet splitting is a well-established medical practice in clinical settings, especially within the geriatric and psychiatric communities, as a means of reducing medication dose and cost. Many prescription drugs are available at increased dosages for the same or similar costs as lower dosages. Tablet splitting can be a cost-saving practice when implemented judiciously using drug and patient-specific criteria aimed at clinical safety. (Source: Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy, January 2015, Vol. 21, No.1, www.amcp.org)

For questions about the Half Tablet program, call one of our Medi-Cal Customer Care Centers at 1-800-407-4627 (outside Los Angeles County) or 1-888-285-7801 (inside Los Angeles County).