# Provider BULLETIN

July 30, 2018

## Important Drug Recall Information

On July 13, the FDA announced a recall of medications containing valsartan, a generic medication used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure, from multiple manufacturers due to an impurity detected in the recalled products. The Food and Drug Administration has stated that because valsartan is used to treat serious medical conditions, patients taking a recalled valsartan-containing medication should continue taking their medicine until they have an alternative therapy or new supply.

**Which valsartan containing products are affected by the recall?**
You can find information regarding this recall on the FDA website:
https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm613532.htm

**Why was this medication recalled?**
This voluntary recall is being issued by the manufacturers working with the FDA because an impurity, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), was detected in the recalled products. However, not all products containing valsartan are being recalled.

The Food and Drug Administration has stated that patients who have the recalled medicine should continue taking it until they have a new supply unless otherwise directed by their healthcare provider. They should NOT discontinue taking their medication without direct guidance from their doctor.

We are sending letters to our UCare members informing them of this recall and asking that they contact their pharmacy to determine if their NDC is included in this recall. Your patients may also contact you to discuss alternative treatment plans. In the event your patient is unable to obtain a replacement supply of the valsartan product, alternatives available on all UCare formularies are losartan and irbesartan.