First Health Services Corporation

04/25/05

Web Announcement 52

Bextra® Sales Suspended:

Based upon a request by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Pfizer Inc. has announced that it has suspended all sales and marketing of Bextra®. Effective immediately, Nevada Medicaid will deny all claims for Bextra. In addition, any new Prior Authorization (PA) requests for Bextra will be denied. Currently, the only alternative COX II agent available is Celebrex®. A new PA will be required to convert a patient from Bextra to Celebrex.

If you have questions regarding this action, please contact the First Health Services' Clinical Call Center at (800) 505-9185. For further information on the FDA's rationale for this action, please visit the following website: http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/cox2.