



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

PT 29-06

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

Office of Operations, Eligibility & Pharmacy  
Medical Care Programs

Charles E. Lehman  
Executive Director

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Pharmacy Transmittal No. 181**

June 1, 2006

**TO:** Pharmacy Providers

**FROM:** Charles Lehman, Executive Director  
Office of Operations, Eligibility and Pharmacy

**NOTE:** Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

**RE:** **Primary Adult Care (PAC) Program**

Beginning July 1, 2006, recipients enrolled in the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) will be phased into a new Program called Primary Adult Care (PAC). The PAC Program is a combination of the MPAP and the Maryland PrimaryCare Program and offers primary care benefits in addition to pharmacy benefits. The services, including pharmacy services, will be provided through certain Managed Care Organizations (MCO) very similar to HealthChoice. The major difference with regard to pharmacy services, will be that in addition to the mental health drugs and enfuvirtide (Fuzeon), **all antiretrovirals used to treat the AIDS virus will be carved-out for PAC recipients and paid as fee-for-service (FFS) by the PAC Program.** The mental health formulary will be the same as it is for HealthChoice.

Enrollment will be phased in between July 1, 2006 and September 1, 2006 with approximately one third of the MPAP recipients enrolled on July 1, 2006, one third enrolled on August 1, 2006 and the remaining third enrolled September 1, 2006. Recipients will have a yellow and white Medical Care Program Card identifying them as PAC recipients. The EVS message will identify these patients as in the PAC program. Claims submitted fee-for-service to the Program will reject with a message to bill the appropriate Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) of the MCO unless the recipient has not yet been enrolled into an MCO or if it is a prescription for one of the carve-out drugs. Recipients waiting enrollment into a PAC MCO will receive a complete pharmacy benefit through the FFS system by using the Medical Care Program Card.

There will be three MCOs (currently providing services under HealthChoice) that will provide services for PAC recipients. These are Jai Medical Systems, UnitedHealthcare and Maryland Physicians Care (MPC). It is the responsibility of the PBM or MCO to inform pharmacies of any electronic billing differences between prescriptions for PAC enrollees and

prescriptions for HealthChoice enrollees. The Mental Health and AIDS carve-out drugs should be submitted in the same manner as other FFS Medicaid claims are submitted. There will be a FFS copay of up to \$7.50 for brand name drugs and up to \$2.50 for generic drugs.

For recipients enrolled during the months of July and August 2006 Managed Care Organizations are required to provide a transitional supply of non-formulary drugs if needed, during the first 90 days after the recipient's enrollment. MCOs must provide a temporary 30-day fill or less, if written for such. MCOs must have systems capabilities that allow them to provide a onetime, temporary supply of non-formulary drugs (including drugs that require prior authorization or step therapy) in order to address the immediate needs of a recipient. This will allow sufficient time for switching to a therapeutically equivalent medication or processing authorization of a non-formulary drug.

The antiretrovirals used to treat the AIDS virus that are carved-out of PAC are in the American Hospital Formulary Service (AHFS) Pharmacological-Therapeutic Classification 8:18.08 Antiretrovirals. This class currently includes:

Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

abacavir, didanosine, emtricitabine, lamivudine, stavudine, zalcitabine, zidovudine

HIV Protease Inhibitors

amprenavir, atazanavir, fosamprenavir, indinavir, lopinavir and ritonavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir, tipranavir

Nonnucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

delavirdine, efavirenz, nevirapine

Nucleotide Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

tenofovir

HIV Fusion Inhibitors

enfuvirtide

Any product that is a combination of the products above, any new medications in the above categories and any new categories in the Antiretroviral Classification used to treat the AIDS virus are automatically carved-out of PAC and paid as FFS by the Program.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Division of Pharmacy Services at 410-767-1455.