



ADVISORY

No. 279

October 3, 2025

Brand vs Generic (DAW6) Changes to Maryland Medicaid's Preferred Drug List (PDL)

Effective October 27, 2025:

The Office of Pharmacy Services (OPS) wants to alert you that effective October 27, 2025:

- **Sabril Powder Packet (vigabatrin powder packet)** is no longer preferred over its respective generic equivalent. Claims for the brand will now adjudicate only if there is a prior authorization based on an approved Maryland Department of Health (MDH) MedWatch form:
<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pap/docs/PA%20Forms/Maryland%20Medwatch%20Form.pdf>
- **Brand and generic Concerta tablet (methylphenidate ER tablet)** will both be preferred. Claims for brand Concerta tablet must be submitted with DAW 6 code and will be priced appropriately. A Maryland Department of Health (MDH) MedWatch form will not be required. Claims with any other DAW code will reject.
- **Brand Ritalin LA capsule (methylphenidate ER capsule) only** will be preferred over its respective generic equivalent. Claims for brand Ritalin LA must be submitted with DAW 6 code and will be priced appropriately. A Maryland Department of Health (MDH) MedWatch form will not be required. Claims with any other DAW code will reject.

If any problems are encountered during the online claim adjudication, contact Conduent 24-hour Help Desk at 800-932-3918 for additional system overrides related to the use of the correct DAW code (for example, if there is other primary insurance).

Please refer to our website for the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and Brand Preferred over Generics List:

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pap/pages/Preferred-Drug-List.aspx>

All Advisories are available online on MDH's web link at: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pap/Pages/Provider-Advisories.aspx>

In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), **Office of Pharmacy Services (OPS)** has developed the **Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program Advisory**.

To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations.

It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via MDH, please contact the OPS representative at 410-767-1455.