



ADVISORY

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Update to Brand/Generic logic for Biologic Medications

Effective May 1, 2026, the Maryland Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program has implemented an update to the **Brand/Generic (BGI)** logic to improve classification accuracy for biologic medications, including biosimilars. This change aligns with FDA guidance on biologic and biosimilar classification and improves medication status reporting.

What Changed?

- The updated BGI logic introduces new attributes for biologics and biosimilars to distinguish them from traditional medications.
- Some biologics previously classified as **generic** will now be classified as **brand** under the new logic.
- Non-biologic medications will continue to follow the existing classification.

Impact on Medication Status and Copayment

- This update may result in **copayment changes for Medicaid FFS participants** when a medication's classification changes from generic to brand, or from brand to generic.
- Under COMAR 10.09.03.03 (O), Agree that the provider may not deny services to any participant because of the individual's inability to pay the copayment.

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.