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MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MCO Transmittal No. 276

Pharmacy Transmittal No. 215

July 31, 2026

TO: Managed Care Organizations
Pharmacies

FROM: Lorena de Leon, Director *Lorena de Leon*
Office of Medical Benefits Management

RE: HealthChoice Policies for Filling Specialty Drug Prescriptions

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

This transmittal reminds MCOs and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) of the regulations they must follow when filling prescriptions for specialty drugs.

Under [COMAR 10.67.06.04H](#), a specialty drug is explicitly defined as a prescription drug that meets either of the following criteria:

- (1) Requires enhanced patient education, management, or support, beyond what is required for traditional dispensing, before or after administration of the drug; or
- (2) Meets all of the following conditions:
 - (a) Is prescribed for an individual with a complex, chronic, or rare medical condition;
 - (b) Costs \$600 or more for up to a 30-day supply;
 - (c) Is not typically stocked at retail pharmacies; and
 - (d) Requires a difficult or unusual process of delivery to the patient in the preparation, handling, storage, inventory, or distribution of the drug.

Furthermore, [COMAR 10.67.06.04I](#) states that if an enrollee requests to use a retail pharmacy to obtain these specialty drugs, the MCO may not limit them to a mail order pharmacy.

In accordance with these regulations, MCOs and their PBMs must allow an enrollee's specialty drug prescription to be filled at any retail pharmacy capable of filling the prescription and providing the required education and management.

MCOs and their PBMs must also ensure that no steering practices actively limit enrollees to mail order pharmacies when an enrollee attempts to fill a specialty drug prescription at a retail pharmacy that is able to dispense the specialty drug.

For questions regarding this transmittal, please contact mdh.healthchoiceprovider@maryland.gov.