

PT13-01



STATE OF MARYLAND  
**DHMH**


Office of Health Services  
Medical Care Programs

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
Parris N. Glendening, Governor - Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**Pharmacy Transmittal No. 164**  
**Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Transmittal No. 42**

April 16, 2001

Psychiatrists  
Pharmacists

**FROM:**  Joseph M. Millstone, Executive Director  
Office of Health Services  
Maryland Medical Assistance Program

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

**Interchangeable Drug Cost for Clozapine**

Effective May 1, 2001, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program will assign an interchangeable drug cost (IDC) to clozapine 100 mg and 25 mg tablets. According to State law, the Program must establish maximum reimbursement levels based on the cost of the generic for drug products with a generic equivalent. Both Zenith-Goldline and Mylan market generic preparations of clozapine. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has assigned the products of both companies a rating of AB which means that they are therapeutically equivalent to the brand product Clozaril® by Novartis.

The Program delayed implementation of an IDC for this drug because of special concerns such as the unique requirement that the company maintain a registry of patients on the medication. Other state Medicaid programs have implemented generic pricing for this drug without problems and the Maryland Medicaid Program is confident that it can do the same without an adverse impact on Maryland Medicaid recipients.

Prescribers must contact the registry of one of the generic companies below to register their patients as soon as possible. The prescriber must also communicate with the pharmacy

on the product being used. Any pharmacy dispensing Clozaril® that has not registered with the generic companies as a pharmacy distribution center should contact one or both of the companies listed below depending on the generic products being dispensed. Registration is a simple procedure and the company representative will assist in the registration process. Below is a list of the phone numbers for each generic company's clozapine registry.

Generic Company	Registry Phone Number
Zenith-Goldline	1-800-507-8334
Mylan	1-800-843-9915

Pharmacists should note the following: Once a patient is registered with one of the generic companies listed above, that manufacturer's product should be dispensed consistently and all blood work for the patient should be sent to that registry.

The Program will phase in the generic reimbursement rate for this drug to minimize any disruptions caused by changing registration. The reimbursement rate effective May 1, 2001 for the 100mg tablet will be \$2.50 per tablet and \$1.00 for the 25mg tablet plus the dispensing fee. This rate applies to both the bulk packaged and unit dose products. These reimbursement levels are above the price at which the generics are available and close to the contract price for the brand name product Clozaril® by Novartis. Effective July 1, 2001 the Program will complete this phase-in by assigning a generic rate based on the cost of the higher priced generic product.

If there are any questions concerning the clozapine registration process in general, prescribers and pharmacies can contact the Clozapine Authorization and Monitoring Program (CAMP) at 410-706-3431. Other questions concerning this transmittal, including the reimbursement amounts should be directed to the Pharmacy Section of the Division of Pharmacy and Clinic Services at 410-767-1455.