



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Office of Systems, Operations & Pharmacy
Medical Care Programs

Charles E. Lehman
Executive Director

**Maryland Medical Assistance Program
General Provider Transmittal No. 66
June 10, 2008**

TO: Physicians, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing Homes, Intermediate Care Facilities for people with Mental Retardation, Residential Treatment Centers for children under 21, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Dentists, Podiatrists

FROM: Charles E. Lehman, Executive Director, *Charles E. Lehman*
Office of Systems, Operations & Pharmacy

RE: HealthChoice MCO formularies on Epocrates® after June 4, 2008

As of June 4, 2008 all HealthChoice MCO and Primary Adult Care (PAC) formularies were made available on the Epocrates® system which is accessible online from a desktop or laptop personal computer or Smart Phone. It can also be downloaded into a PDA device. The Maryland Medicaid fee-for-service Preferred Drug List (PDL) has been available on Epocrates® since August of 2006.

- Epocrates® will be updated monthly with MCO formulary changes and any fee-for-service PDL changes.
- The Epocrates® Online service is free to all prescribers and pharmacy providers.
- Coverage status of each drug is listed along with contact information and comments for each drug, including, for example, actual quantity limits for those drugs that have limits, or contact information to call to request prior authorization (PA) for drugs which require PA.
- The free system also provides drug label information, pictures to identify tablets and capsules, and a drug-drug interaction checker.

Below is a brief introductory tutorial for getting started with the Epocrates® system.

1. Register for your free user account at www.epocrates.com
2. Once your account is active the system will take you to the “**Epocrates® Online**” webpage
3. Select “**Edit Formulary List**” near the middle of the top of the page
4. Next to “**Select State**” use the drop down box to select “**Maryland**”



5. Next to “**Select Category**” use the drop down box to select “**Health Plans**”
6. Then select each of the Maryland Medicaid HealthChoice, PAC or fee-for-service plans that you need to check. They are listed as follows:

AMERIGROUP MD Medicaid
 Diamond MD Medicaid
 Jai Medical Systems Medicaid
 Jai Medical Systems PAC
 Maryland Physicians Care*
 MedStar Family Choice
 MD Medicaid (fee-for-service)
 Priority Partners MD Medicaid*
 UnitedHealthcare MD Medicaid*

* Maryland Physicians Care, Priority Partners MD Medicaid, and UnitedHealthcare MD Medicaid also have PAC formularies, but these plans use the same formulary for HealthChoice and PAC. The Jai Medical System PAC formulary differs slightly from their HealthChoice formulary and is listed separately.

7. Once you have added the selected plans to your list of formularies, select the “**DRUGS**” tab on the top of the page
8. Then next to “**Select Formulary**” use the drop down box to select the formulary you wish to review
9. Once the formulary is selected, drugs can be searched by drug class or alphabetically by drug name

The following are the Formulary Service Codes used by Epocrates® for the HealthChoice, PAC and fee-for-service plans:

AG	Age Restriction applies
GP	Generics preferred; brands non-formulary or higher co-pay ¹
N	Non-Formulary (means Non-Preferred in fee-for-service plan)
NC	Not Covered
OTC	Over The Counter – check with the plan to determine if the OTC drug is covered
PA	Prior Authorization required
QL	Quantity limits apply
ST	Step Therapy applies
Y	On Formulary (means covered drug in fee-for-service plan)
MB	May be Covered under Medical Benefits
P	Preferred (used only with fee-for-service plan)
SP	Available by Specialty Pharmacy ²

¹ Epocrates® lists multi-source brand products by both brand name and generic name. For the following plans: Fee-for-service, Priority Partners MD Medicaid, UnitedHealthcare MD Medicaid, AMERIGROUP MD Medicaid and Maryland Physicians Care, brand drugs for which only the generic is covered are coded “GP”, covered generic drugs are coded as “Y”. The other plans may use a different coding scheme and brand drugs for which only generics are covered may be listed as “N” or “NF”. Always check the listing of the drug under the generic name to determine coverage or contact the plan.

² Many drugs available from specialty pharmacies may also require prior authorization. Check with the individual plan for details.