



MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

No. 95
June 28, 2011

ADVISORY

In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program (MMPP) 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 DHMH, please contact the MMPP representative at 410-767-1455.

Generic vs. Brand Status on Maryland's Preferred Drug List

Medicaid's Preferred Drug List, encompassing about 1000 drugs, covers most of the generic versions of preferred multisource brand drugs without any type of prior authorization. If the brand name drug is required, the prescriber must complete a Medwatch form (<http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mpap/medwatch.htm>) and submit it to the State. The State's clinical pharmacy team will review the Medwatch form and notify the prescriber whether the request for the brand name drug was approved or denied. The State will forward the Medwatch form to the FDA.

The purpose of this Advisory is to alert you to the current exceptions to this rule (effective July 1, 2011). These exceptions supersede the exceptions that were listed in Advisory 91.

Not All Generics are Preferred

In order for the State to enhance the benefit of the PDL, in some instances the multisource brand name drug is Preferred over its generic equivalents, because the branded drug is less costly than its generic counterpart. This happens most often in cases of newly released generics. When manufacturer rebates are taken into consideration, the brand name drug has a lower net cost to the State.

When the brand name drug is Preferred, no Medwatch nor authorization is needed. Enter a DAW code of 6 on the claim to have it correctly priced.

If any problems are encountered during the on-line claim adjudication of Preferred Brands, contact ACS 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 insurance primary).

The generic non-preferred exceptions as of July 1, 2011 are as follows:

Non-Preferred Generics	Status of Equivalent Brands
adapalene	Differin (Preferred)
amphetamine salt combo ER	Adderall XR (Preferred)
bromonidine	Alphagan P (preferred)
calcitonin salmon	Miacalcin (Preferred)
calcium acetate	PhosLo (Preferred)
carbamazepine ER capsules	Carbatrol ER (Preferred)
clindamycin-benzoyl peroxide	Benzaclin (Preferred)
cyclosporine	Sandimmune (Preferred)
dorzolomide/timolol	Cosopt (Preferred)
dorzolamide	Trusopt (preferred)
dronabinol	Marinol (Preferred)
enoxaparin	Lovenox (Preferred)
malathion crème rinse	Ovide (Preferred)
methylphenidate controlled release	Concerta ER (Preferred)
tacrolimus	Prograf (Preferred)
tinidazole	Tindamax (Preferred)
tranylcypromine	Parnate (Preferred)
valacyclovir	Valtrex (Preferred)

In the following instances, both the multisource brand and the generic are preferred.

Preferred generics	(Brand also Preferred- no MedWatch form required)
dexamethylphenidate	Focalin
divalproex sprinkles	Depakote sprinkles
venlafaxine XR tablets	Venlafaxine XR tablets

Please maintain this for a reference together with any updates that follow. This information is available at <http://www.epocrates.com/> on your desktop computer or PDA/Smartphone. Epocrates is updated weekly.