



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
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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
Pharmacy Transmittal No. 187
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TO: Pharmacies

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

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

RE: Maryland Medicaid May Cover up to a 30-day Emergency Supply of Atypical Antipsychotics

When the prescriber is not available to obtain Prior Authorization (PA) for an atypical antipsychotic medication, including those subject to Step Therapy (currently Zyprexa® requires Step Therapy), authorization can be obtained to dispense up to a 30-day emergency supply. The pharmacist should use their professional judgment in determining whether the prescription is needed on an emergency basis, taking into account the patient's diagnostic and drug history, information about what medications the patient has on hand, and possible recent hospitalization, as well as any mobility, transportation or communication issues that make returning to the pharmacy difficult or expensive.

In order to get a paid claim for an emergency supply of any atypical antipsychotic requiring a PA, the pharmacy must call 800-932-3918 for authorization. During the 30-day window, the pharmacist is to follow-up with the prescriber who must obtain the PA before the prescription can be filled a second time.

