



# MARYLAND PHARMACY PROGRAM

## Medicaid - Pharmacy Assistance – Pharmacy Discount

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# 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 Pharmacy Program (MPP)** has developed the **Maryland 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 MPP representative at 410-767-1455.*

- **Medicare Part D Drug Coverage**
- **Benefit Changes for Medical Assistance Full Dual Eligible Recipients**
- **Termination of Coverage for Medicare Eligible Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) and Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program (MPDP) Recipients**
- **Maryland Medicaid Coverage of Drug Classes Excluded from Medicare Part D Basic Plans**

### Medicare Part D Drug Coverage

The Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit is scheduled to begin January 1, 2006 for all persons eligible for Medicare. When this takes effect, Medicare will replace the Maryland Pharmacy Program (MPP) as the payer of prescription medications for recipients eligible for Medicare. For fully eligible Medicaid recipients with Medicare (full duals), Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) will be the payer for prescription drugs. Medicaid will continue to cover only certain medications excluded from coverage under Part D as described below. Recipients in the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) eligible for Medicare and all recipients in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program (MPDP) will no longer receive a pharmacy benefit through the Maryland Pharmacy Program (MPP).

In order to receive benefits under Part D, beneficiaries must be enrolled into one of the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. To ensure that fully eligible Medicaid recipients with Medicare (full duals) are in a plan on January 1, 2006, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will automatically assign these recipients into PDPs. Likewise, the State intends to automatically assign Medicare eligible recipients in the MPAP into PDPs to ensure that they are ready to receive benefits in January. Recipients will receive a letter informing them of the PDP that they have been assigned to and that they can switch plans at any time. **Any question concerning enrollment and Part D coverage should be addressed to CMS at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).** Most recipients in the

MPDP will not be automatically enrolled by the State; however, they will be advised that they must enroll into a Medicare Part D plan if they want to receive benefits under Part D.

## **Benefit Changes for Medical Assistance Full Dual Eligible Recipients**

Prescription Claims Submission - Pharmacies must bill the particular Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) in which the recipient is enrolled. If a pharmacy bills the Medicaid Program rather than the PDP for a Medicare Part D covered drug, the claim will reject with the message to bill Medicare. The co-payment applied by the PDP for covered drugs will be the responsibility of the recipient and will not be covered by Medicaid. If there is a question as to which PDP the recipient is enrolled, the pharmacy should contact Medicare. If the PDP rejects the prescription because it is not on their formulary, the physician and/or pharmacist must contact the PDP to either change the medication to a formulary drug or obtain preauthorization according to the requirements of the PDP. Non-formulary medications will not be covered by Medicaid.

Medicare Part D Excluded Drugs - Under the Medicare Modernization Act that created pharmacy coverage under Part D, certain drugs can be excluded from coverage by the PDP. Of these excluded drugs, the Medicaid Program only covers prescriptions for barbiturates, benzodiazepines, legend vitamins and legend cough/cold preparations. These medications will continue to be covered by the Medicaid Program for Medicaid full dual recipients with the Medicare Part D benefit. See the table below for the excluded drugs.

Medicare Part B Drugs - Drugs covered under Medicare Part B, such as immunosuppressants, will continue to be covered under Part B. The twenty percent co-payment will be covered under Medicaid as a crossover claim for full dual Medicaid recipients. This payment will continue to be automatically processed under the pharmacy's Durable Medical Supply/Disposable Medical Equipment (DMS/DME) provider number if Medicare has been billed.

## **Termination of Coverage for Medicare Eligible Pharmacy Assistance Program (MPAP) and Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program (MPDP) Recipients**

Recipients in the MPAP eligible for Medicare will have their MPAP eligibility terminated once Part D begins. As previously stated, the Pharmacy Program will initially assign these recipients to PDPs. **The MPDP, which consists only of Medicare eligible recipients, will end with the start of Part D.** Most recipients in the MPDP will not be assigned to a PDP; however, they will be advised that they must enroll themselves to receive benefits through Part D. If a pharmacy bills the Program instead of the Medicare PDP, the claim will deny with the message that the recipient is no longer eligible. The following Medicare Part D excluded drug classes and the twenty percent co-payment for drugs covered under Medicare Part B will not be covered by the MPP for these recipients. Recipients in the MPAP that are not eligible for Medicare will continue with their pharmacy coverage unchanged.

If recipients in one of these Programs have not been notified by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that they have been deemed eligible for the low-income subsidy to cover the cost of premiums, co-payments, and deductibles, they should contact the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or 1-877-486-2048 for TTY users, to apply for the subsidy.

Questions concerning this Advisory should be directed to the Division of Pharmacy Services at 410-767-1455.

### Maryland Medicaid Coverage of Drug Classes Excluded from Medicare Part D Basic Plans (For Dual Eligibles Only)

Classes of Drugs Excluded by Medicare Part D Basic Prescription Drug Plans	Maryland Coverage for Dual Eligibles
Drugs when used for anorexia, weight loss, weight gain	Products that are not central nervous system stimulants (e.g. Xenical)
Drugs when used for the symptomatic relief of cough and colds	Legend products only
Prescription vitamins and mineral products	All
Nonprescription drugs (Over-the-Counter)	Few (e.g., Ferrous sulfate, enteric coated aspirin, ergocalciferol liquid)
Barbiturates (drugs used before surgery to relieve anxiety or tension, to help control seizures in certain disorders or diseases, sometimes used to relieve nervousness or restlessness during the daytime)	All
Benzodiazepines (drugs used to relieve anxiety, treat insomnia (trouble in sleeping), or help relax muscles or relieve muscle spasms)	All