



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
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Office of Operations, Eligibility & Pharmacy
Medical Care Programs

Charles E. Lehman
Executive Director

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Pharmacy Transmittal No. 182
November 20, 2006

TO: Medicaid Providers

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

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

RE: **Acceptability of Oral Prescriptions Under Medicaid**
Expansion of the Medicaid List of Maintenance Medications
Elimination of the List of Non-substitutable Drugs in Maryland

Effective November 23, 2006 pharmacy regulation amendments have been adopted. These amendments implement the State law (effective October 1, 2006) that allows Maryland Medicaid pharmacy providers to accept oral prescriptions from prescribers over the phone for Medicaid recipients. When accepting an oral prescription over the phone, the pharmacist must promptly write out and file the prescription. All information required by federal and State law must be included on the prescription. This transcribed order must be available for auditing by the Program. Phone-in prescriptions are not allowed for Schedule II controlled dangerous substances and for certain drugs that the Department determines as an emerging threat because of increasing abuse and diversion. The Program will post any drugs it places in this category on the Department's Maryland Pharmacy Program website (www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mpap). At the time of this writing, there are no drugs on this list. NOTE: The Program continues to not allow the transfer of Medicaid prescriptions from one pharmacy to another. In addition to oral prescriptions from prescribers, these regulation amendments also allow electronic prescriptions that are in accordance with all applicable State and federal laws.

These amendments also expand the list of maintenance drugs. Below is the list of American Hospital Formulary Service (AHFS) categories that Medicaid allows to be dispensed in up to a 100 days supply at one time (any exceptions are noted).

Revised List of Maintenance Drugs

- (a) Cardiac drugs (24:04);

- (b) Antilipemic agents (24:06);
- (c) Hypotensive agents (24:08);
- (d) Vasodilating agents (24:12); (including 24:12.08)
- (e) Sclerosing agents (24:16);
- (f) Alpha-adrenergic blocking agents (24:20);
- (g) Beta-adrenergic blocking agents (24:24);
- (h) Calcium-channel blocking agents (24:28);
- (i) Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone sys. inhib (24:32); (including 24:32.04 and 24:32.08)
- (j) Hydantoins (28:12:12);
- (k) Oxazolidinediones (28:12:16);
- (l) Succinimides (28:12:20);
- (m) Anticonvulsants, miscellaneous (28:12:92);
- (n) Replacement solutions (40:12) (potassium supplements only);
- (o) Diuretics (40:28); (including 40:28.08)
- (p) Lipotropic agents (56:24);
- (q) Contraceptives (68:12); (allow 180 days supply at one time)
- (r) Estrogens and antiestrogens (68:16);
- (s) Antidiabetic agents (68:20); (including 68:20.08 and 68:20.20)
- (t) Antihypoglycemic agents (68:22);
- (u) Parathyroid (68:24);
- (v) Progestins (68:32);
- (w) Thyroid and antithyroid agents (68:36); (including 68:36.04)
- (x) Vitamins (88:00); (legend products only) (including 88:08.00 and 88.28.00)
- (y) Sodium fluoride (92:00); (sodium fluoride only, allow 120 days at one time) and
- (z) Iron preparations, oral (20.04.04) (oral products in which ferrous sulfate is the only active ingredient and chewable tablets of any ferrous salt if combined with vitamin C, multivitamins, multivitamins and minerals, or other minerals in the formulation).

List of Non-substitutable Drugs Rescinded

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued a notice on September 21, 1990, which removed six drugs from the Maryland Drug Formulary of Equivalent Drug Products, making them non-substitutable. These drugs are:

- Carbamazepine oral tablets 200mg
- Phenytoin Sodium Extended Oral Capsules 100mg
- Primidone Oral Tablets 250mg
- Valproic Acid Oral Capsule 250mg
- Theophylline Extended Release Oral Tablets 100mg, 200mg, 300mg
- Warfarin Sodium Oral Tablets 2mg, 2.5mg, 5mg

In Volume 33, Issue 14, of the Maryland Register, dated July 7, 2006, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene issued a notice recommending reinstatement of these drugs to be consistent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) current Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations (commonly known as the Orange Book of Generic Equivalents). The notice indicated that the Maryland Pharmacy Program was accepting public comments on the recommendation for 30 days from the date of publication. **Effective November 1, 2006, the Department is reinstating these drugs as generically substitutable consistent with the FDA ratings.**

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