Generic Lexapro (escitalopram) Becomes Preferred on Maryland Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL)

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 equivalent, because the branded drug is less costly than its generic counterpart. This happens most often in cases of newly released generics. After the exclusivity period for a new generic expires, prices of the generic drug often drop significantly.

Following this pricing pattern, effective September 25, generic escitalopram will become preferred, and claims for the drug will be handled in the same manner as claims for other multisource drugs. Fee-for-service Medicaid claims for Lexapro® will adjudicate only if there is prior authorization based on an approved Medwatch.

To check on whether prior authorization is needed for a drug or whether there is a quantity limit for Maryland Medicaid drugs refer to http://www.epocrates.com/ on your desktop computer or PDA/Smartphone. Epocrates is updated regularly.