



MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

No. 111
May 30, 2012

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.

Lipitor Is No Longer Brand 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 equivalents, because the branded drug is less costly than its generic counterpart. This happens most often in cases of newly released generics.

Since prices for atorvastatin, the generic of Lipitor, have dropped significantly this week, this Advisory alerts you that Lipitor will no longer be a preferred brand in the Maryland Medicaid Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Program. Beginning on Friday, June 1, claims for the generic, atorvastatin, will be handled in the same manner as claims for other multisource drugs. Straight Medicaid claims for Lipitor will adjudicate only if there is prior authorization based on an approved MedWatch.

The generic non-preferred exceptions as of June 1, 2012 are as follows:

Non-Preferred Generics

adapalene
amphetamine salt combo ER
azelastine

Preferred Brands

Differin
Adderall XR
Astelin

brimonidine P 0.15%	Alphagan P 0.15% ¹
calcitonin salmon	Miacalcin
calcium acetate	PhosLo
carbamazepine XR and ER capsules	Carbatrol ER capsules
clindamycin-benzoyl peroxide	Benzaclin
clonidine patches	Catapres TTS patches
cyclosporine	Sandimmune
diazepam rectal	Diastat
divalproex sprinkles	Depakote Sprinkles
dronabinol	Marinol
escitalopram	Lexapro
enoxaparin	Lovenox
malathion crème rinse	Ovide
methylphenidate controlled release	Concerta ER
tacrolimus	Prograf
tranylcypromine	Parnate
triamcinolone	Nasocort AQ
valacyclovir	Valtrex
venlafaxine ER tablets	Venlafaxine ER tablets ² from Upstate NDCs 65580-301-05 through 65580-304-05
ziprasadone	Geodon

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

Preferred generics

carbamazepine suspension
dexamethylphenidate
gentamicin ointment
metipranolol
oxcarbazepine suspension
prednisolone acetate

(Brand also Preferred- no MedWatch form required)

Tegretol suspension
Focalin
Garamycin ointment
Optipranolol
Trileptal suspension
Omnipred³

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.

¹ Like most drugs on the Preferred Drug List, Ophthalmic Glaucoma Agent generic bromonidide P 0.1% is preferred, Alphagan P 0.1% requires an approved MedWatch..

² Venlafaxine XR capsules are preferred and Effexor XR is non-preferred.

³ Pred Forte, which is generically equivalent, is non-preferred.