



State of New Mexico Medical Assistance Program Manual Supplement



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TO: ALL PRESCRIBING PROVIDERS AND COORDINATORS OF PATIENT CARE

FROM: CAROLYN INGRAM, DIRECTOR
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

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SUBJECT: PREFERRED DRUG LIST IMPLEMENTATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Beginning August 1, 2005, pharmacy benefits for many Native American (American Indian) Medicaid clients who are not in a SALUD! managed care organization will begin to follow the pharmacy Preferred Drug List (PDL), as required by state statute 27-2C-3 NMSA 1978. This program is called NMR_x, and currently includes many Medicaid clients who are also eligible for Medicare.

The "Pharmacy PDL Administrator", Presbyterian Health Plan, administers the NMR_x the program under the management of the Human Services Department.

Overview - When a Medicaid client has been enrolled in the NMR_x Pharmacy PDL Plan:

- The recipient will receive a pharmacy card from Presbyterian Health Plan. **Instruct your staff to retain a copy of this card in the patient's medical record.**
- The client's prescriptions will be subject to the PDL, quantity limits, pharmacy exception requirements, and utilization controls of NMR_x. **The client ID number as it appears on the Presbyterian Health Plan NMR_x pharmacy card or the client's Social Security Number must be used rather than the Medicaid ID number.**
- The PDL **WILL** apply to prescriptions filled outside IHS/Tribal 638 facilities. These claims should be submitted to Presbyterian's claims processor.
- The PDL **WILL NOT** apply to Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribally operated "638" pharmacies. These prescriptions should be submitted to the Medicaid fiscal agent, ACS, per current practice.
- Presbyterian Health Plan will handle questions on denials, payments, and policies. **Call 1-888-923-5757, option 3.**

Transitioning Clients to the PDL – To assure a smooth transition:

- Presbyterian will grant a 60-day grace period to continue the non-PDL item by issuing an automatic pharmacy exception.
- The 60-day grace period **WILL NOT** apply to:
 - ◆ Zyrtec, Clarinex or Allegra, where the preferred agent is loratadine OTC.
 - ◆ Nutritional supplements, diapers, non-PDL OTC's and brand medically necessary prescriptions.
 - ◆ Presbyterian will send a letter to clients known to be taking a medication that is not on the PDL asking them to contact the prescriber to have the prescription changed, if appropriate.
- The 60-day grace period is only to transition the patient from an existing medication to a PDL medication. After the 60-day period, a claim will be denied for a non-PDL item without a pharmacy exception.
- Presbyterian Health Plan will consider pharmacy exceptions for items not on the PDL, but will approve them only when medically necessary as determined by the information supplied by the prescriber. The request must be made

on the appropriate form with the necessary documentation from the prescriber. See “Procedures for Prescriber” below.

Access to PDL

- Internet: <http://www.phs.org/facilities/pharmacy/formulary.shtml>. Scroll down to “State NMRx Pharmacy Program”.
- Handheld device: FREE download available at www2.epocrates.com, >> Get ePocrates Rx >> Register New Account >> Select Formulary.
- Pocket Formulary: To obtain a hard copy booklet, contact Presbyterian Health Plan at 1-888-923-5757, option 3.

Procedures for the Prescriber – Prescribers DO NOT need to be a participating provider with Presbyterian Health Plan to prescribe drug items. If the prescriber wishes to request authorization for an item not on the PDL, the prescriber must request a “pharmacy exception”:

- The pharmacy exception process form may be downloaded from Presbyterian Health Plan’s website at: <http://www.phs.org/resources/documents/exception.pdf>
- The pharmacy exception form may also be obtained by calling Presbyterian Health Plan at 1-888-923-5757, option 3.
- The prescriber must complete the form with all requested information and fax it to Presbyterian Health Plan at 505-923-5540.
- Pharmacy exceptions will be issued by Presbyterian Health Plan, NOT by the Medical Assistance Division. Requests will be approved or denied based on medical necessity using the documentation supplied by the prescriber.

Utilization Controls - The Pharmacy PDL Administrator will enforce such utilization controls such as:

- Require pharmacy exceptions for “Dispense As Written” requests when generic items are available, non-PDL items, oral nutritional supplements and disposable diapers.
- Apply quantity limits, dose optimization, step therapy edits, and prescriber specialty requirements for some items.
- Require 14-day initial supply and 90-day maintenance supply for certain drugs.
- Require tablet splitting for Lexapro, Celexa, Zoloft and Paxil and their generics. The pharmacy will be reimbursed to pre-split the tablets. The client will not be required to split tablets.

Information on these and other utilization controls may be found on the page for the NMR_x Pharmacy PDL Plan at: <http://www.phs.org/facilities/pharmacy/formulary.shtml#therapeutic>.

Reminder on Behavioral Health Services:

As a reminder, prescriptions written by behavioral health prescribers will be handled by Value Options of New Mexico and **not through NMRx**. For questions and assistance related to the ValueOptions drug coverage, call **1-888-251-7511**.

Questions on the PDL and pharmacy policies will be handled by Presbyterian Health Plan. Call Presbyterian Health Plan at 1-888-923-5757, option 3.

You may contact the Medical Assistance Division at (505) 827-3165. We appreciate your continued participation in the Medicaid program. We believe with your help we can make this transition successful for everyone. Thank you.