

DOH STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Medicaid Pharmacy Provider:

This letter is to remind pharmacists that there will be a change in Medicaid coverage of drugs for your patients that have both Medicare and Medicaid. In accordance with NY State law, **beginning January 1, 2007, Medicaid will cover the following types of drugs through a limited wrap around benefit only when the recipient's Part D plan will not pay for them:**

- Atypical antipsychotics
- Antidepressants
- Antiretrovirals used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS
- Immunosuppressants used in the treatment of tissue and organ transplant

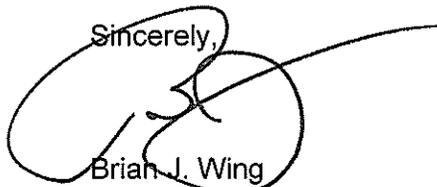
Medicaid will continue to pay for drugs excluded from the Medicare prescription drug benefit. These drugs are benzodiazepines, barbiturates, select prescription vitamins and certain non-prescription drugs.

All Medicaid rules apply to wrap-around benefit claims, including any Medicaid prior authorization requirements and co-payment guidelines. If the drug requires prior authorization under Medicaid, the prescriber must initiate the Medicaid PA process for duals by calling 1-877-309-9493. Please remember that the Medicaid wrap-around benefit cannot be used to obtain early refills, refills for lost or stolen drugs, extended or vacation supplies.

Pharmacists should be aware that Medicaid is currently processing a significant number of prescription drug claims that will not be covered for dual eligible recipients after December 31, 2006. We strongly encourage pharmacists to identify recipients whose drugs are being paid by Medicaid. Either the pharmacist or the recipient should contact the prescriber or the Part D plan for information on obtaining drug coverage through the plan. Recipients who need assistance can also be referred to Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227) or the Health Insurance Information, Counseling Assistance Program (HIICAP) at 1-800-701-0501.

Please watch for future editions of the Medicaid Update for additional information on Medicare Part D. Questions regarding this information can be directed to the Medicaid Pharmacy Policy & Operations Bureau at (518) 486-3209 or by email at ppno@health.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Wing
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Medicaid Management