



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 Prescriber:

This letter is to remind prescribers 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 only when the recipient's Part D plan will not pay for them:** atypical antipsychotics, antidepressants, antiretrovirals used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, and immunosuppressants used in the treatment of tissue and organ transplant.

Medicaid will continue to pay for the following drugs excluded from the Medicare prescription drug benefit: 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. For drugs requiring prior authorization under Medicaid, the prescriber must initiate the PA process for duals by calling 1-877-309-9493. The Medicaid wrap-around benefit cannot be used to obtain early refills, refills for lost or stolen drugs, extended or vacation supplies.

We strongly encourage prescribers to work with Part D plans prior to January 1, 2007 to obtain coverage for your patients' drugs, including all necessary exceptions or prior authorizations in order to avoid interruptions in your patients' drug therapy.

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