



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

March 1, 2005

Dear Medicaid Managed Care Enrollee:

It is important to read this letter to understand changes in the State Law that may increase your medical expenses beginning April 1, 2005.

Medicaid recipients enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care plan will be responsible for the same pharmacy co-payments as other Medicaid recipients. Co-payments have been kept as low as possible and will allow the Medicaid program to continue to provide high quality health care services to you. Medicaid Managed Care enrollees are not responsible for co-payments for any services other than pharmacy.

The chart below shows co-payments that will be your responsibility beginning on April 1, 2005.

Item	Co-Payment Amount	Details About Co-Payment
Brand-name prescription drugs	\$2.00	One co-payment charge for <i>each</i> new prescription and <i>each</i> refill NO CO-PAYMENT FOR: Drugs to treat mental illness (psychotropic), tuberculosis, and birth control.
Generic prescription drugs	\$0.50	One co-payment charge for <i>each</i> new prescription and <i>each</i> refill NO CO-PAYMENT FOR: Drugs to treat mental illness (psychotropic), tuberculosis, and birth control.
Over-the-counter medications	\$0.50	One co-payment for <i>each</i> item ordered by a recognized practitioner. NO CO-PAYMENT FOR: Birth control items.

The annual co-payment maximum per recipient per year is \$100. The co-pay year begins on April 1 each year and ends on March 31 of the following year. Once the maximum has been reached, no co-payments will be required until the new benefit year begins.

You do not have to pay the co-payment if:

- You cannot afford to pay at any time and you tell the pharmacist that you are unable to pay. **The pharmacy cannot refuse to give you pharmacy items because you are unable to pay.** (You will still owe the unpaid co-pay amounts to the pharmacy. They may ask you for them later or send you a bill.)
- You are younger than 21 years old.
- You are pregnant. Pregnant women are exempt during pregnancy and for the two months after the month in which the pregnancy ends. (You may need to tell the pharmacist that you are pregnant.)
- You are getting family planning (birth control) services. This includes family planning drugs or supplies like birth control pills and condoms.
- You are a resident of an Adult Care Facility licensed by the New York State Department of Health (DOH).
- You are a resident of a Nursing Home.
- You are a resident of an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD).
- You are a resident of an Office of Mental Health (OMH) or Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) certified Community Residence.
- You are enrolled in a Comprehensive Medicaid Case Management (CMCM) or Service Coordination Program.
- You are enrolled in an OMH or OMRDD Home and Community Based (HCBS) Waiver Program.
- You are enrolled in the DOH HCBS Waiver Program for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

NOTE: Recipients who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and/or receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments are not exempt from Medicaid co-payments, unless they also fall into one of the groups listed above.

You have a right to a Fair Hearing if you think a mistake has been made in your birth date and you are under 21 years old or you are in another program that makes you exempt from co-pays. Information about requesting a Fair Hearing is enclosed. You do not have a right to a Fair Hearing to complain about the change in State Law.

If you have questions about the New York State Medicaid Recipient Co-Payment Program, you may call 1-800-541-2831 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kuhmerker
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Medicaid Management