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STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY**  
NEVADA MEDICAID

July 26, 2004

Dear Nevada Medicaid or Nevada Check Up Recipient :

The Department of Health Care Financing & Policy (DHCFP) will be making a change to your pharmacy coverage provided under Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up, beginning August 2004. If you are in a Medicaid Managed Care program, this change does not affect your pharmacy coverage. This change is called a preferred drug list (PDL). A preferred drug list is a list of drugs that work the same way as more expensive drugs, but cost less. A clinical committee made up of Nevada pharmacists and physicians have chosen the drugs on the PDL. This program has been designed to ensure that you will get the drugs that you need.

A copy of the preferred drug list and a question-and-answer sheet are included to help you in this transition.

We have sent your doctor, pharmacist, and Medicaid case worker or Medicaid eligibility specialist information on the preferred drug list. If you have questions, please contact your case worker or eligibility specialist, or talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Sincerely,

Charles Duarte, Administrator

Attachments

cc: Mary E. Wherry, Deputy Administrator, DHCFP  
Coleen Lawrence, Chief Program Services, DHCFP

## **Questions and Answers for Recipients about the Nevada Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL)**

### **1. What is a Preferred Drug List (PDL)?**

It is a list of drugs that have been identified as being the best drugs, that are available at a good price, and that Medicaid will pay for without a special request for prior authorization (PA) from your doctor.

Some types of drugs will **not** be affected by this change in coverage. You will be able to access them as you currently do. These drugs include:

- Atypical and typical antipsychotic medications
- Seizure medications
- Organ transplant medications
- Diabetes medications
- Anti-hemophilic medications
- HIV/AIDS medications

If you have questions if the prescriptions you have are in these categories, please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

### **2. If my drug is on the PDL, can it still require a PA?**

Yes, some drugs will need prior authorization to make sure they are medically necessary.

### **3. What if I take a drug that is not on the PDL?**

If you are filling or refilling a prescription for a drug not included on the PDL, the pharmacist should inform you that you will need to either (1) get the drug changed to a preferred drug or (2) have your physician request prior authorization. Your prescriber may change your drug to a drug on the list, or may send in a prior authorization requesting that your drug be covered by Medicaid.

You will always be able to get an effective drug to treat your medical condition.

### **4. What happens if my drug does not get a prior authorization?**

If your doctor cannot be contacted, your pharmacist is allowed to give you a 72-hour emergency supply of the drug. If approval for more of the drug is not given after your doctor discusses your medical needs with Medicaid, you have the right to appeal the decision. You will receive notice so that you can appeal.