

November 13, 2019

## Statewide Preferred Drug List (PDL) FAQs for Providers Effective 1/1/20

### What is a Preferred Drug List (PDL)?

The Preferred Drug List (PDL) is created by the Department of Human Services (DHS), in consultation with the P&T Committee. The PDL is intended to help prescribers and members choose safe, effective, and lower-cost drugs. Preferred drugs have fewer restrictions than Non-preferred drugs. Non-preferred drugs will need a prior authorization. The PDL is available on DHS's website: <https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list>

### What is changing, when, and why?

Starting January 1, 2020, all the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that offer an outpatient drug benefit for Pennsylvania HealthChoices members must use DHS's PDL. Members enrolled with an MCO will have access to all the drugs on the PDL. They will also have access to other drugs on their plan's *List of Covered Drugs* (formulary). This change does not apply to members with dual Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

DHS developed the PDL and requires MCOs to use it for the following reasons:

- It reduces disruptions in therapy when a member moves from one plan to another
- It encourages the use of the most cost-effective drugs within a PDL drug class
- It simplifies pharmacy benefits for prescribers and pharmacies

### How does this change affect drugs that are not included on the PDL?

We will continue to maintain a *List of Covered Drugs*, or formulary. We will use their own clinical criteria and coverage policies for drugs that are not part of the PDL. These are approved by DHS prior to implementation.

### How does this change affect provider-administered drugs (i.e., physician-administered drugs)?

The PDL applies to outpatient drug claims where a drug is dispensed and billed by a pharmacy and when a drug is administered to a member and billed on a medical claim (e.g., CMS-1500).

**If I have an approved drug prior authorization for a patient and the drug is not included on the PDL, will I need to submit another prior authorization request?**

You will receive a letter if your patient requires a new prior authorization (PA) for a drug that will become non-preferred on January 1, 2020.

**Has the process to obtain a PA changed?**

No. The PA process has not changed. Our current coverage can be found on our website: <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/pennsylvania/providers/pharmacy>

**If I need to obtain a PA, how long does that process take?**

DHS or the Aetna Better Health will respond to a drug prior authorization request within 24 hours to inform you if the request is approved, denied, or if more information is needed.

**If my patient needs an emergency supply, will the pharmacy supply it?**

Yes. To prevent a member from leaving without medication, we approve emergency supplies of medications up to 15 days when drug therapy needs to begin immediately, and prior authorization is pending.

**Can Aetna Better Health list drugs not on the DHS PDL as preferred or non-preferred?**

No. However, we will continue to use our clinical criteria and coverage policies for drugs or drug classes that are not part of the PDL. These are approved by DHS prior to implementation.

**Will Aetna Better Health use different prior authorization criteria for non-preferred drugs on the PDL?**

DHS and Aetna Better Health will use the same non-preferred PA criteria for the drug classes on the PDL.

**How is a drug selected for inclusion on the PDL ?**

Change Healthcare, DHS's PDL contracted vendor, reviews each drug on its clinical merits as compared to other drugs in the same drug class. Change Healthcare's primary sources for this review include published, peer-reviewed clinical trials. Data regarding efficacy, effectiveness, adverse effects, and tolerability are analyzed and compared to other drugs within the therapeutic class. DHS presents the drug class review to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T). P&T then makes recommendations to DHS regarding the preferred or non-preferred status of each drug within the drug class. After considering both P&T recommendations and financial analyses, DHS makes the final selection of preferred drugs for the PDL.

**How often will drugs, or drug classes, be reviewed and changes made to the PDL?**

The P&T committee will review selected drugs or drug classes once a year.

**Where can I find more information about P&T meetings?**

DHS's P&T meetings are open to the public. Additional information, including upcoming meeting dates and times, are listed on the DHS website at

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/pharmacyservices/preferreddruglistinformation/index.htm>

For more information about the PDL you can contact our Provider Relations Department by calling 1-866-638-1232.

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