

## Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Updates: March 2, 2023 meeting

On March 2, 2023, the DHCF Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee convened for the quarterly meeting and reviewed the following classes of drugs below.

Androgenic Agents; Hyperparathyroidism Agents; Antibiotics, Vaginal; Hypoglycemics, Incretin Mimetics/Enhancers; Antiemetics/Antivertigo Agents; Hypoglycemics, Insulins; Antihyperuricemics; Hypoglycemics, Meglitinides; Bladder Relaxants; Hypoglycemics, Metformins; Bone Resorption and Suppression Agents; Hypoglycemics, SGLT2 Inhibitors; BPH Agents; Hypoglycemics, Thiazolidinediones; Colony Stimulating Factors; Pancreatic Enzymes; Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents; Phosphate Binders; GI Motility, IBS, Chronic; Progestins For Cachexia; Glucagon Agents; Proton Pump Inhibitors; Growth Hormone; Ulcerative Colitis Agents; H. Pylori Agents; Vaginal Estrogen Preparations; Histamine-2-Receptor Antagonists.

As of March 17, 2023, the following changes to the preferred drug list concerning these classes above is as follows:

Antibiotics, Vaginal -Cleocin cream **preferred**, Vandazole **non-preferred**. Antiemetic/Antivertigo Agents - Transderm Scop **preferred agent**, Scopolamine Transdermal **non-preferred**. Erythropoiesis Stimulating Proteins- Retacrit from Vifor **non-preferred**; Retacrit from Pfizer **preferred**. Glucagon Agents (new category)-Glucagon, Glucagon Emergency Kit, Gvoke Pen, and Baqsimi **preferred**. Glucagon Like Peptide (GLP-1) Receptor Agonists-Trulicity preferred. Hypoglycemics, insulins and related agents-Humalog Cart, Jr. Kwikpen, Pens and Vial and Insulin aspart pen **preferred agents**; Insulin Lispro Jr. Kwikpen, Pen, Vial, and Novolog Pen **non-preferred**. Phosphate Binders-Calcium Acetate Tablets **preferred agent**, Calcium Acetate Capsules **non-preferred**. Proton Pump Inhibitors- Protonix Suspension **preferred**. Ulcerative Colitis Agents-Lialda **preferred agent**

**DC MEDICAID PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL) NEWS**

## POINT OF SALE "POS" NUGGETS



### Selected Medical PAD paid at POS drugs effective 4/1/23

Effective April 1, 2023, Physician Administered drugs (PAD), and non-chemotherapy injections, will have an option to be paid at the point of sale (POS), only at pharmacy providers enrolled in the DHCF Mental Health Specialty Network. Moving forward, PAD for Medicaid patients are available in two scenarios 1) "white bagging" \*pharmacy provider will process claims and deliver drug directly to physician's office for administer to patient 2) "Buy and Bill" \*current historical process\* in which providers purchases and administer medical benefit PAD prior to billing DHCF.

Commonly used Physician administered drugs include *non* chemotherapy injections, biosimilars, and biologics, and injectable antipsychotics.

We encourage new applicants to the Mental Health Specialty Network. Remember, only pharmacy providers with this designation can use this new Point of Sale payment option for PAD drugs. For more information on the DHCF Mental Health Specialty Network or to enroll, [follow this link](https://www.dc-pbm.com/provider/external/medicaid/dc/doc/enus/District_Mental_Health_Services_Application.pdf) URL: [https://www.dc-pbm.com/provider/external/medicaid/dc/doc/enus/District\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Services\\_Application.pdf](https://www.dc-pbm.com/provider/external/medicaid/dc/doc/enus/District_Mental_Health_Services_Application.pdf)

### Patient Signature Requirement at Pharmacy Counter or Site of Medication Delivery Resumes May 12, 2023

During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, DC Medicaid (DHCF) modified the beneficiary signature requirement for prescription delivery to patients and pick up at the pharmacy counter. The capture of beneficiary (patient) signatures will be resuming on May 12, 2023 for both deliveries and in person pick up. For more information see the [Updated Providers Manual link](#), section 10.0 "Counseling Signature Log Requirements" and 10.1 "Signature Log Requirements During State of Emergency" at URL: [https://www.dc-pbm.com/provider/external/medicaid/dc/doc/en-us/District\\_FFS\\_Provider\\_Manual.pdf](https://www.dc-pbm.com/provider/external/medicaid/dc/doc/en-us/District_FFS_Provider_Manual.pdf)

## DHCF News Nuggets

**MCO changes** As of April 1 2023, the following Managed Care Organization (MCO) providers will service DC Medicaid Beneficiaries: Health Services for Children with Special Needs (HSCSN), Amerigroup, AmeriHealth Caritas, and Medstar Family Choice. **While**, Carefirst Community Health Plan is no longer an MCO provider as of March 31, 2023. All Medicaid MCO patients will continue with uninterrupted health care services during this transition.

**Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Changes** -In alignment with the current opioid guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHCF along with many other state Medicaid plans, will be moving to require prior authorization for any opioid prescription or combination of opioid-content-agents that exceeds 50 MME/day. This limit will be in place for all current utilizers and new patients. Providers will be notified, and roll out to occur in stages, beginning in the second quarter of 2023.

**Naloxone 4mg nasal spray is now classified as Over-The-Counter (OTC)** Effective March 29, 2023, as announced in a official FDA statement. Other formulations and dosages of naloxone will remain available by prescription only, and the transition may take several months with timeline, availability, and price to be determined by the manufacturer. More to come on official point of sale (POS) process and DHCF policy.

### Federal PHE (Public Health Emergency) Unwinding Underway

The Federal COVID 19 Pubic health emergency (PHE) is scheduled to end May 11, 2023, and some policies that were in place during the PHE will be rolled back. For DHCF, early refills of a 30 days supply of non-controlled medications, previously allowed to be overridden using early refill DUE code "ER" will require Prior Authorization (PA) beginning May 12, 2023.

Also, several PA extensions or waivers for existing PAs, automatic 90-days supply approval for new medications and schedule III-V Controlled Substances, will stop on May 12, 2023. Required PA documentation from prescribers will resume. [COVID-19 tests Kits and vaccines](#) will remain as currently covered by DHCF (limit of 4 test (2 kits) x 30 days), and vaccine coverage for administration in pharmacies and at Provider's offices will continue.

Finally, the approval of a [90-day supply for maintenance medications](#) is currently being considered for extension for one additional year, through May 2024, with the goal of making this a permanent change.

### Medicaid Eligibility Recertification Resumes

Also related to this PHE unwinding, beginning April 1, 2023, the [continuous Medicaid eligibility that was in place during the PHE will stop](#) and Medicaid beneficiaries will have to renew/recertify for their coverage for the first time in over 3 years.



**Did you know** all DC residents with Medicaid, Alliance, or the Immigrant Children's Program must start renewing their coverage again?

**Don't miss out** on important information. If you haven't already, take time today to update your address, phone number, and/or email address at [districtdirect.dc.gov](https://districtdirect.dc.gov) so that DHCF knows where to send your Medicaid renewal letter.

Then check your mail for info on how to renew. If you need help, please call us at **202-727-5355**.