

FAQs for Members

What is a Preferred Drug List (PDL)?

The Preferred Drug List (PDL) is a list of medications to help prescribers and members choose safe, effective, and lower-cost drugs. The Kentucky Department for Medicaid Service's (DMS) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, made up of physicians and pharmacists, recommend the preferred or non-preferred status for the drugs in each class and the corresponding clinical criteria for each class and specific product, as necessary. Preferred drugs have fewer restrictions than non-preferred drugs. Non-preferred drugs will need a prior authorization.

What is changing for who and when?

Beginning January 1, 2020, all Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) in Kentucky will use the DMS established Single PDL. Medicaid members enrolled with an MCO will have access to all of the drugs on the Single PDL.

Why is this change occurring?

Per KRS 205.647, DMS is required to implement a Single PDL for all MCOs. DMS sees additional benefits including:

- Simplifying the prescribing and prior authorization processes for all providers serving Kentucky Medicaid members
- Less disruption if members move from one MCO to another
- The Single PDL encourages the use of the most cost-effective drugs within a PDL drug class
- The Single PDL allows for ease in implementation of Medicaid population health initiatives

Which members does the Single PDL apply to?

The Single PDL applies to all Medicaid members. Both fee-for-service and managed care Medicaid members.

Will I have to change to a different drug?

This will depend on the drugs you are currently taking. Many of the drugs on the single PDL are widely used and will not require any changes by your prescriber. If you are taking a non-preferred drug, your prescriber will need to either change your prescription to a preferred drug or ask for a prior authorization from your MCO. Your MCO will work with your prescriber to cover a drug that meets your needs. You will not lose drug coverage. The Single PDL can be found on your MCO's website or available through the DMS Pharmacy website.

If I already have a prior authorization for a drug and it is not included on the single PDL (or removed), will I need to get a new authorization?

If you have an existing prior authorization for a drug that is not included on the Single PDL, the prior authorization will be honored by the MCO until it expires.

How long does it take for my prescriber to get a prior authorization for a drug?

DMS and MCOs will respond to a drug prior authorization request, once submitted by your prescriber, within 24 hours to inform your prescriber if the request is approved, denied, or if more information is needed.