


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director-  
State Medicaid Director

Transmittal #17- 12

TO: District of Columbia Medicaid Prescribers and Pharmacists

FROM: Claudia Schlosberg, J.D.   
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: May 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Complying with the *Access to Contraception Amendment Act of 2015*

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The purpose of this transmittal is to provide information to help District Medicaid providers comply with the *Access to Contraception Amendment Act of 2015*.

The *Access to Contraception Amendment Act* went into effect on January 1, 2017. This law requires all health benefit plans, including Medicaid, to authorize the dispensing of up to a 12-month supply of a woman's covered prescription contraceptive at one time. Prior to this legislation, providers could often only prescribe up to 3-months' worth of a contraceptive at any given time, requiring the beneficiary to return to their pharmacy multiple times to obtain prescription refills. While nothing in this law prevents a provider from issuing a prescription for birth control for less than a 12-month supply, the purpose of this legislation is to eliminate barriers to continuous contraceptive use, thereby helping reduce the possibility of an unintended pregnancy.

Because this legislation applies to Medicaid as well as private health plans, prescribers who participate in Medicaid are able to immediately prescribe medication in the manner stated. Medicaid participating prescribers will simply need to reflect the quantity needed to be dispensed at one time (e.g. 1-month supply, 6-month supply, 12-month supply, etc.) on the prescription order form.

DHCF has attached a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) which we hope addresses common questions about this new legislation.

If you have any additional questions about the information contained in this transmittal or need more information, please contact Charlene Fairfax, RPh, CDE, Senior Pharmacist, Division of Clinician, Pharmacy and Acute Provider Services, at [charlene.fairfax@dc.gov](mailto:charlene.fairfax@dc.gov) or 202-442-9076.

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# Access to Contraception Amendment Act of 2015

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

for

### Prescribers, Pharmacists and Health Plans Participating in the District of Columbia Medicaid Program

1. What should the pharmacy do if a Medicaid beneficiary's 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives is lost, stolen or damaged?

The Medicaid beneficiary shall receive a refill of medication not to exceed a 90-day supply of prescription contraceptives as a one-time fill at the pharmacy. NOTE: A new prescription from the prescriber will be needed.

2. If a Medicaid beneficiary's eligibility expires soon or before the end of the 12-month period, is she eligible to receive a 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives?

Yes. With a prescription written for a 12-month supply or quantity, the Medicaid beneficiary shall be allowed to receive up to the 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives.

3. Are Alliance members eligible to receive a 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives as a one-time fill at the pharmacy?

No. Alliance members are not eligible to receive a 12-month supply of prescription contraceptives as a one-time fill at the pharmacy.

4. If a Medicaid beneficiary receives a 12-month supply of a certain prescription contraceptive and then is prescribed a different prescription contraceptive medication within the same 12-month period, is she to receive a 12-month supply of the newly prescribed medication?

Yes. The Medicaid beneficiary is to receive a 12-month supply of the newly prescribed prescription contraceptive medication.

5. If a Medicaid beneficiary receives a 12-month supply of a generic name prescription contraceptive medication, and then within the same 12-month period is given a new prescription for the brand name prescription contraceptive due to medical necessity, is she to receive a 12-month supply of the brand name prescription contraceptive medication?

Yes. If the prescriber writes a new prescription for the brand name prescription contraceptive medication due to medical necessity (Dispense as Written or Brand Name Necessary) then the Medicaid beneficiary shall be allowed to receive up to the 12 month supply of the brand name prescription contraceptive medication. NOTE: A Prior Authorization may be needed in order for the Medicaid beneficiary to receive the brand name prescription contraceptive medication.

6. Does the *Access to Contraception Amendment Act of 2015* apply only to oral prescription contraceptives?

No. The *Access to Contraception Amendment Act of 2015* applies to all oral, transdermal, injectable and intravaginal administered prescription contraceptive medications.

**For more information, please contact Charlene Fairfax, RPh, CDE, Senior Pharmacist, Division of Clinician, Pharmacy and Acute Provider Services, at [charlene.fairfax@dc.gov](mailto:charlene.fairfax@dc.gov) or 202-442-9076.**