

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/
Medicaid Director

Transmittal# 21-13

To: All DC Medicaid Providers

From: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

Date: March 18, 2021

Subject: PrEP and PEP Coverage for Medicaid Beneficiaries Enrolled in MCOs

Purpose

This is to inform you that the DC Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is implementing a policy change that will carve-out coverage and reimbursement for medications approved for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) from the Medicaid managed care program. The managed care organizations (MCOs) will no longer reimburse for these medications through the DC Healthy Families Program (DCHFP). **This policy does not apply to individuals enrolled in the DC Healthcare Alliance (Alliance) or the Immigrant Children's Program (ICP).**

Background

To date, DHCF has required MCOs to cover and reimburse for HIV medications for Medicaid beneficiaries when used for HIV prevention (PrEP & PEP), whereas the same medications are covered by Medicaid FFS when used as part of HIV treatment regimens. Prior authorization processes enacted to distinguish whether HIV medications are prescribed for prevention vs. treatment imposed variable requirements to prescribing PrEP & PEP for MCO beneficiaries. To address access barriers and create uniform criteria across the Medicaid program, DHCF will carve-out PrEP & PEP coverage into FFS for all DC Medicaid beneficiaries.

New Policy

Effective April 1, 2021 all providers and pharmacies submitting Medicaid pharmacy point-of-sale (POS) claims for FDA-approved medications and their generic equivalents when used for PrEP and any Medicaid pharmacy POS claims for HIV medications when used for PEP must bill through the Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Manager (currently Magellan) to receive reimbursement from DHCF. This policy applies to all pharmacy claims submitted on behalf of eligible Medicaid beneficiaries (does not include Alliance or ICP) whether enrolled in

either the FFS program or a Medicaid MCO. Please refer to Table 1 for a listing of PrEP and PEP medications.

FDA Indication	Drug Regimen
PrEP (Taken once daily before high-risk activity)	Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada)
	Emtricitabine/Tenofovir alafenamide (Descovy)
PEP (28-day course of a 3-drug antiretroviral regimen)	Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada) + Raltegravir (Isentress) or Dolutegravir (Tivicay)
	Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada) + Darunavir (Prezista) + Ritonavir (Norvir)
	Zidovudine (Retrovir) + Lamivudine (Epivir) + Raltegravir (Isentress) or Dolutegravir (Tivicay)
	Zidovudine (Retrovir) + Lamivudine (Epivir) + Darunavir (Prezista) + Ritonavir (Norvir)
	Emtricitabine (Emtriva) + Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Viread) + Raltegravir (Isentress)
	Zidovudine (Retrovir) + Lamivudine (Epivir) + Raltegravir (Isentress) or Lopinavir/Ritonavir oral solution (Kaletra)
	Emtricitabine (Emtriva) + Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Viread) + Lopinavir/Ritonavir (Kaletra)
	Emtricitabine (Emtriva) + Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Viread) + Darunavir/Ritonavir (Prezista)
	Zidovudine oral solution + Lamivudine oral solution + Raltegravir (Isentress) or Lopinavir/Ritonavir (Kaletra)
	Zidovudine oral solution + Emtricitabine oral solution + Raltegravir (Isentress) or Lopinavir/Ritonavir (Kaletra)

Table 1: Drug Regimens for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

DHCF's goals for this policy are to ensure open and equitable access to PrEP and PEP medications regardless of a Medicaid beneficiary's assigned Medicaid program payor, to assist providers in raising awareness of HIV prevention guidelines and PrEP and PEP availability for their patients, and to align with and promote the city's HIV health initiative: "The 90/90/90/50 Plan: Ending the HIV Epidemic in the District of Columbia by 2020".

Contact

If you have any questions or have any problems with obtaining medication after the change becomes effective on April 1, 2021, please contact the DHCF Division of Clinician, Pharmacy, and Acute Provider Services: Charlene Fairfax, Senior Pharmacist at (202) 442-9076 or charlene.fairfax@dc.gov; Gidey Amare, Pharmacist at (202) 442-5952 or gidey.amare@dc.gov; Jonas Terry, Pharmacist at (202) 478-1415 or jonas.terry@dc.gov; or Magellan (Pharmacy Benefit Manager) at 1-800-273-4962 (Provider Phone Line).

cc: Medical Society of the District of Columbia

DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Care Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
Washington DC Pharmacists Association
DC Health