

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal #23-22

TO: Prescribers, Pharmacy Providers, and Pharmacy Benefit Managers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

DATE: April 24, 2023

SUBJECT: Antiretroviral (ARV) Drug Coverage Clarification

Purpose

This transmittal outlines the coverage of Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs prescribed and dispensed to treat or prevent HIV for enrollees of the District’s Fee-for-Service (FFS), Medicaid managed care, and DC Health Care Alliance (Alliance) programs. This transmittal builds on [previous guidance](#) from the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) and provides streamlined information regarding benefit eligibility, including eligibility for newborns, prescription filling, claim adjudication, and reimbursement for ARV drugs. This transmittal also helps facilitate timely access to HIV treatment, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

Coverage of HIV Antiretrovirals

HIV ARVs are carved-out of Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) contracts.¹ Therefore, the FFS Medicaid program is responsible for covering HIV ARV drugs prescribed for treatment, PrEP, and PEP for all Medicaid beneficiaries (FFS and managed care).

Alliance enrollees obtain HIV ARV drugs prescribed for treatment from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and such prescriptions are filled at one of the pharmacies in the DC ADAP HIV/AIDS Pharmacy Provider Network. However, when ARV HIV drugs are prescribed for PrEP or PEP, the enrollee’s respective MCO shall be responsible to cover such drugs.

HIV Antiretroviral Claim Processing – Medicaid Enrollees

All claims for HIV ARV drugs prescribed to FFS and MCO enrollees, are managed, processed, and reimbursed by the FFS Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM).

A claim for HIV ARV drugs prescribed to a newborn, born to either a birthing parent covered under Medicaid FFS or a Medicaid MCO, is covered by the Medicaid FFS program, and claims are adjudicated through the FFS PBM. Claims shall also be processed using the mother’s profile

¹ See [DC Transmittal #21-13](#) for more information about MCO coverage of PrEP and PEP.

(Name, DOB, and Medicaid ID number) and submitted with prior authorization (PA) code (PATC) = 8 and person code = 03 for dependent.

HIV Antiretroviral Claim Processing – Alliance Enrollees

Aside from ARV drugs prescribed for PrEP and PEP which an Alliance enrollee's MCO is required to cover and the MCO's PBM will process, Alliance enrollees obtain ARV drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS from the DC ADAP. These claims are processed and managed by an ADAP-contracted PBM.

A claim for HIV ARV drug prescribed to a newborn of a birthing parent covered under the Alliance will be processed and paid by the birthing parent's respective MCO. Information on how to process a claim under the birthing parent's profile can be obtained by contacting their MCO.

Though the newborn of an Alliance enrollee is a citizen of the United States who is qualified to receive Medicaid benefits, the FFS PBM is not capable of processing a claim under the birthing parent's name because their profile does not exist in the system. Therefore, it shall remain the responsibility of the mother's MCO to cover ARV drugs used to treat or prevent HIV infection when prescribed to a newborn. This action remains applicable until the time a specific Medicaid ID number is assigned that qualifies the newborn to receive HIV ARV drugs for treatment, PrEP or PEP from the FFS Medicaid program.

Contact

If you have questions, please contact Charlene Fairfax, RPh, Senior Pharmacist, Health Care Delivery Management Administration (HCDMA), DHCF at Charlene.fairfax@dc.gov or (202) 442-9076, or Gidey Amare, PharmD, RPh, Pharmacist, HCDMA, DHCF at gidey.amare@dc.gov or (202) 442-5952.

If you encounter problems related to claim processing with the FFS PBM, please contact the PBM Call Center at (800) 273-4962, or Allison Williams at ANWilliams1@magellanhealth.com or (804) 548-0184, or James Woods at JLWoods@magellanhealth.com, or (804) 548-0199 ext. 80199.

If you have an MCO-specific question, please contact one of the following:

- **AmeriHealth Caritas DC:** Contact Tracey Davis, PharmD at tdavis4@amerihealthcaritasdc.com or (202) 669-5347, or Pharmacy Services at (888) 602-3741.
- **MedStar Family Choice:** Contact Eileen Langstraat, PharmD at eileen.r.langstraat@medstar.net or (855) 798-4244.
- **Amerigroup DC:** Contact Oluwadamilola (Lola) Omopariola, PharmD, BCACP at oluwadamilola.omopariola@amerigroup.com or (571)814-8296, or the Pharmacy Help Desk at (833)235-2029, or Pharmacy Enrollee Services at (833)214-3604.
- **HSCSN:** Contact Leslie Addison, RPH, MPH at laddison@hschealth.org or (202) 495-7659.

If you have questions about the ADAP program, please contact the DC ADAP Hotline at (202)671-4815, or Ramsell PBM Customer Service at (888)311-7632.

cc: DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
Medical Society of the District of Columbia