



North Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
**Recipient Services EIS**

1985 Umstead Drive – 2512 Mail Service Center - Raleigh, N.C. 27699-2512  
Courier Number 56-20-06

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

Paul R. Perruzzi, Director

May 18, 2001

**RE: Changes to Medicaid Policy for Dispensing Prescription Medicines**

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Effective July 1, 2001, the quantity of a Medicaid covered prescription that may be filled at one time will be reduced. Currently, if the doctor writes a prescription for a 100-day supply, the entire 100-day supply is filled. To more effectively manage prescription benefits, beginning July 1, Medicaid will allow only up to a one month (34-day) supply to be dispensed. There will be no change in the six-prescription per month limit or the \$1.00 copayment. Birth control pills will be an exception to this. Up to a 100-day supply (3 packs) of birth control pills may be dispensed at one time.

Doctors and pharmacists are being notified of this change with articles in the provider bulletins. Recipients are being notified via an insert mailed with the June 2001 Medicaid ID cards. Attached for your information is a copy of this insert. The insert will be printed in both English and Spanish. Only the English version is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact the Medicaid Eligibility Unit, (919) 857-4019.

Paul R. Perruzzi

Attachment

PRP/acw

### **MEDICAID PRESCRIPTION CHANGE**

There will be a change in how Medicaid pays for prescriptions. Medicaid will still cover prescriptions. However, you may not be able to get as much medicine at one time as you have in the past. Currently, if your doctor writes a prescription for a 100-day supply of medicine, all of the 100-day supply is provided. To better manage Medicaid prescription benefits, beginning July 1, 2001, you can get no more than a 34-day supply of a prescription (except birth control pills) at one time. You will still be able to get up to 100 days (three packs) of birth control pills at a time. Medicaid will continue to pay for no more than six prescriptions per month, and the copayment for a prescription will remain \$1.00. Since you will not be able to get as much of a prescription at one time, you may have to go to the drug store more often to get a prescription filled. You will have to pay a copayment each time, so this may cause you to pay more copayments than you pay now. The change is made under the authority of Chapter 108A-54 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Your doctor and druggist are being told of this change. If you have any questions regarding this change, please call the CARE-LINE Information and Referral Service, toll-free at (800) 662-7030.

**June 1, 2001**

(Para leer en Español vea el lado reverso.)

**Division of Medical Assistance**