



An Information Service of the Division of Health Benefits

**North Carolina
Medicaid Pharmacy
Newsletter**

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Pharmacy Claims Flexibility Available to Prevent Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Given the presence of the COVID-19 virus in North Carolina, point of sale pharmacy claims processing flexibility has been instituted to help reduce the administrative burden of providing appropriate medications in a timely fashion to NC Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries. In addition, these measures can help accommodate appropriate social distancing measures. We encourage prescribers and pharmacies to utilize these flexible options as we assist our beneficiaries in managing their drug therapies during this public health issue.

Beginning April 6, 2020, NC Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries may fill prescriptions for up to 90 days supply for:

- Schedule 2 medications typically prescribed for Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (i.e. Adderall XR, amphetamine combo, methylphenidate, Vyvanse, etc.)
- Medications prescribed for Opioid Use Disorder Medication Assisted Treatment and paid for via the point of sale outpatient pharmacy program (i.e. Suboxone, etc.)
- Medical providers are encouraged to write prescriptions for up to 90 days supply of these medications where clinically appropriate so beneficiaries may utilize this important benefit
- **Please be aware that these edit changes do not apply to any other controlled substances. Additionally, we encourage providers to follow all applicable state and federal laws and regulations for controlled substances.**
- Refer to the [Special Pharmacy Newsletter dated March 13, 2020](#), for a listing of other flexibilities initiated, including allowing up to 90 days supply of most non-controlled substance medications

Co-pay requirements are still applicable to these pharmacy claims.

We are monitoring potential drug shortages daily. Providers may submit any information related to market shortages of medications directly to DHB staff at Medicaid.PDL@dhhs.nc.gov.

These flexibilities are in effect beginning April 6, 2020, and will end the earlier of the cancellation of the North Carolina state of emergency declaration or when the policy modification is rescinded.

Addition of Mailing and Delivery Fees to Retail Pharmacy Claims

Effective April 27, 2020, prescriptions for NC Medicaid and NC Health Choice beneficiaries are eligible for the addition of a mailing or delivery fee via the guidelines below. NC Medicaid encourages beneficiaries to request, and pharmacy providers to mail or deliver prescriptions to beneficiaries, during the COVID-19 pandemic to achieve better social distancing within their community. This measure should be considered for all beneficiaries but especially those that are considered at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness (CDC definition of people considered higher risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>).

Pharmacies must input a Level of Service (Field 418-DI) indicator equal to 02 on the POS pharmacy claim for prescriptions that are requested by the beneficiary to be mailed. The rate of payment for this mailing fee is \$1.50. Mailing of prescriptions includes those that are sent via the US Postal Service, UPS, FedEx, or other similar service.

Pharmacies must input a Level of Service (Field 418-DI) indicator equal to 06 on the POS pharmacy claim for prescriptions that are requested by the beneficiary to be hand delivered by the pharmacy provider. The rate of payment for this delivery fee is \$3.00. Delivery of prescriptions includes via courier or other person-to-person delivery method to the beneficiary or their designee. Please note:

- Providers are limited to one mail or delivery fee, per beneficiary, per Pharmacy NPI, per day
- No more than one delivery fee will be paid on a single claim
- Pharmacies cannot request an emergency supply and a delivery fee on the same claim
- Mailing and Delivery fees will be reported on the POS pharmacy response transaction in the Other Amount Paid (565-J4) Field
- Denied pharmacy claims will not pay a mail or delivery fee
- NC Medicaid will monitor this fee usage and may update these guidelines at any time

These changes are effective April 27, 2020 and will end the earlier of the cancellation of the North Carolina state of emergency declaration or when the policy modification is rescinded by NC Medicaid.

Preferred Brands with Non-Preferred Generics on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) Current as of April 25, 2020

Brand Name	Generic Name
Actiq 1200 mcg Lozenges	fentanyl citrate 1200 mcg lozenges
Actiq 1600 mcg Lozenges	fentanyl citrate 1600 mcg lozenges
Actiq 200 mcg Lozenges	fentanyl citrate 200 mcg lozenges
Actiq 400 mcg Lozenges	fentanyl citrate 400 mcg lozenges
Actiq 600 mcg Lozenges	fentanyl citrate 600 mcg lozenges
Actiq 800 mcg Lozenges	fentanyl citrate 800 mcg lozenges
Adderall XR 10 mg Capsule	amphetamine salt combo ER 10 mg capsule
Adderall XR 15 mg Capsule	amphetamine salt combo ER 15 mg capsule
Adderall XR 20 mg Capsule	amphetamine salt combo ER 20 mg capsule
Adderall XR 25 mg Capsule	amphetamine salt combo ER 25 mg capsule
Adderall XR 30 mg Capsule	amphetamine salt combo ER 30 mg capsule
Adderall XR 5 mg Capsule	amphetamine salt combo ER 5 mg capsule
Advair Diskus 100-50	fluticasone-salmeterol 100-50
Advair Diskus 250-50	fluticasone-salmeterol 250-50
Advair Diskus 500-50	fluticasone-salmeterol 500-50
Aggrenox Capsule	aspirin-dipyridamole ER capsule
Alphagan P 0.15% Drops	brimonidine P 0.15% Drops
Androgel 1.62% Gel Pump	testosterone 1.62% gel pump

Apriso ER 0.375 Gram Capsule	mesalamine ER 0.375 gram capsule
Astepro 0.15% Nasal Spray	azelastine 0.15% nasal spray
Canasa 1,000 mg Suppository	mesalamine 1,000 mg suppository
Catapres-TTS 1 Patch	clonidine 0.1 mg/day patch
Catapres-TTS 2 Patch	clonidine 0.2 mg/day patch
Catapres-TTS 3 Patch	clonidine 0.3 mg/day patch
Cipro 10% Suspension	ciprofloxacin 500 mg/5 ml suspension
Cipro 5% Suspension	ciprofloxacin 250 mg/5 ml suspension
Clobex 0.005% Shampoo	clobetasol 0.005% shampoo
Concerta 18 mg Tablet	methylphenidate ER 18 mg tablet
Concerta 27 mg Tablet	methylphenidate ER 27 mg tablet
Concerta 36 mg Tablet	methylphenidate ER 36 mg tablet
Concerta 54 mg Tablet	methylphenidate ER 54 mg tablet
Copaxone 20 mg/ml Syringe	glatiramer 20 mg/ml syringe
Copaxone 40 mg/ml Syringe	glatiramer 40 mg/ml syringe
Derma-Smoothe-FS Body Oil	fluocinolone 0.01% body oil
Derma-Smoothe-FS Scalp Oil	fluocinolone 0.01% scalp oil
Dermotic Otic Drops	fluocinolone 0.01% otic drops
Diastat 2.5 mg Pedi System	diazepam 2.5 mg rectal gel system
Diastat Acudial 12.5-15-20	diazepam 20 mg rectal gel system
Diastat Acudial 5-7.5-10	diazepam 10 mg rectal gel system
Diclegis Tablet	doxylamine succinate/pyridoxine hcl tablet
Differin 0.1% Cream	adapalene 0.1% cream
Differin 0.3% Gel Pump	adapalene 0.3% gel pump
Dovonex 0.005% Cream	calcipotriene 0.005% cream
E.E.S 200	erythromycin ethyl succinate 200 mg/5 ml
Elidel 1% Cream	pimecrolimus 1% cream
Emend 40 mg Capsule	aprepitant 40 mg capsule
Emend 80 mg Capsule	aprepitant 80 mg capsule
Epiduo Gel	adapalene/benzoyl peroxide gel
Eryped 400mg/5ml suspension	erythromycin 400mg/5ml suspension
Exelon 13.3 mg/24 hr Patch	rivastigmine 13.3 mg/24 hr patch
Exelon 4.6 mg/24 hr Patch	rivastigmine 4.6 mg/24 hr patch
Exelon 9.5 mg/24 hr Patch	rivastigmine 9.5 mg/24 hr patch
Fazaclo 100 mg ODT	clozapine 100 mg ODT
Fazaclo 12.5 mg ODT	clozapine 12.5 mg ODT
Fazaclo 200 mg ODT	clozapine 200 mg ODT
Focalin 10 mg Tablet	dexmethylphenidate 10 mg tablet
Focalin 2.5 mg Tablet	dexmethylphenidate 2.5 mg tablet
Focalin 5 mg Tablet	dexmethylphenidate 5 mg tablet
Focalin XR 5 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 5 mg capsule
Focalin XR 10 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 10 mg capsule
Focalin XR 15 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 15 mg capsule

Focalin XR 20 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 20 mg capsule
Focalin XR 25 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 25 mg capsule
Focalin XR 30 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 30 mg capsule
Focalin XR 35 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 35 mg capsule
Focalin XR 40 mg Capsule	dexmethylphenidate ER 40 mg capsule
Gabitril 12 mg Tablet	tiagabine 12 mg tablet
Gabitril 16 mg Tablet	tiagabine 16 mg tablet
Gabitril 2 mg Tablet	tiagabine 2 mg tablet
Gabitril 4 mg Tablet	tiagabine 4 mg tablet
Glyset 100 mg Tablet	miglitol 100 mg tablet
Glyset 25 mg Tablet	miglitol 25 mg tablet
Glyset 50 mg Tablet	miglitol 50 mg tablet
Humalog 100 units/ml Vial	insulin lispro 100units/ml vial
Humalog Kwikpen 100 units/ml	insulin lispro 100units/ml pen
Humalog Kwikpen Mix 75-25	insulin lispro Mix 75-25 pen
Kitabis Pak 300 mg/5 ml	tobramycin pak 300 mg/5 ml
Letairis 5mg Tablet	ambrisentan 5mg tablet
Letairis 10mg Tablet	ambrisentan 10mg tablet
Lialda 1.2 gm Tablet	mesalamine 1.2 gm tablet
Lotemax 0.5% eye drops	loteprednol etabonate eye drops
Lovenox 300 mg/3 ml Vial	enoxaparin 300 mg/3 ml vial
Makena 1,250 mg/5 ml Vial	hydroxyprogesterone 1,250 mg/5 ml vial
Methylin 10 mg/5 ml Solution	methylphenidate 10 mg/5 ml solution
Methylin 5 mg/5 ml Solution	methylphenidate 5 mg/5 ml solution
MetroCream 0.75% Cream	metronidazole 0.75% cream
Metrogel Topical 1% Gel	metronidazole topical 1% gel
Metrogel Topical 1% Pump	metronidazole topical 1% gel
MetroLotion 0.75% Lotion	metronidazole 0.75% lotion
Mitigare 0.6 mg capsule	colchicine 0.6 mg capsule
Moxeza 0.5% eye drops	moxifloxacin 0.5% eye drops
Natroba 0.9% Topical Suspension	spinosad 0.9% topical suspension
Nexium DR 10mg Packet	esomeprazole DR 10mg packet
Niaspan ER 1000 mg Tablet	niacin ER 1000 mg tablet
Niaspan ER 500 mg Tablet	niacin ER 500 mg tablet
Niaspan ER 750 mg Tablet	niacin ER 750 mg tablet
Novolog Mix 70-30 FlexPen	insulin aspart mix 70-30 pen
Novolog Mix 70-30 Vial	insulin aspart mix 70-30 vial
Nuvigil 150 MG Tablet	armodafinil 150 mg tablet
Nuvigil 200 MG Tablet	armodafinil 200 mg tablet
Nuvigil 250 MG Tablet	armodafinil 250 mg tablet
Nuvigil 50 MG Tablet	armodafinil 50 mg tablet
Pataday 0.2% Drops	olopatadine 0.2% drops
ProAir HFA/Proventil HFA	albuterol HFA inhaler

Protopic 0.03% Ointment	tacrolimus 0.03% ointment
Protopic 0.1% Ointment	tacrolimus 0.1% ointment
Provigil 100 mg tablet	modafinil 100 mg tablet
Provigil 200 mg tablet	modafinil 200 mg tablet
Pulmicort 0.25 mg/2 ml	budesonide 0.25 mg/2 ml
Pulmicort 0.5 mg/2 ml	budesonide 0.5 mg/2 ml
Pulmicort 1 mg/2 ml	budesonide 1.0 mg/2 ml
Ranexa ER 500mg Tablet	ranolazine ER 500mg tablet
Ranexa ER 1000mg Tablet	ranolazine ER 1000mg tablet
Renagel 800mg Tablet	sevelamer 800mg tablet
Renvela 0.8 gm powder pkt	sevelamer 0.8 gm powder pkt
Renvela 2.4 gm powder pkt	sevelamer 2.4 gm powder pkt
Retin-A 0.025% Cream	tretinoin 0.025% cream
Retin-A 0.05% Cream	tretinoin 0.05% cream
Retin-A 0.1% Cream	tretinoin 0.1% cream
Retin-A Gel 0.01%	tretinoin gel 0.01%
Retin-A Gel 0.025%	tretinoin gel 0.025%
Sabril Powder Pack	vigabatin powder pack
Suboxone 2 mg-0.5 mg Film	buprenorphine/naloxone 2mg-0.5mg film
Suboxone 4 mg-1 mg Film	buprenorphine/naloxone 4mg-1mg film
Suboxone 8 mg-2 mg Film	buprenorphine/naloxone 8mg-2mg film
Suboxone 12 mg-3 mg Film	buprenorphine/naloxone 12mg-3mg film
Suprax 100 mg/5 ml Suspension	cefixime 100 mg/5 ml suspension
Suprax 200 mg/5 ml Suspension	cefixime 200 mg/5 ml suspension
Supraz 400 mg Capsule	cefixime 400 mg capsule
Symbicort 80-4.5 mcg Inhaler	budesonide-formoterol 80-4.5 mcg inhaler
Symbicort 160-4.5 mcg Inhaler	budesonide-formoterol 160-4.5 mcg inhaler
Symbyax 12-50 Capsule	olanzepine-fluoxetine 12-50 capsule
Symbyax 3-25 Capsule	olanzepine-fluoxetine 3-25 capsule
Symbyax 6-25 Capsule	olanzepine-fluoxetine 6-25 capsule
Symbyax 6-50 Capsule	olanzepine-fluoxetine 6-50 capsule
Tamiflu 30 mg Capsule	oseltamivir 30 mg capsule
Tamiflu 45 mg Capsule	oseltamivir 45 mg capsule
Tamiflu 75 mg Capsule	oseltamivir 75 mg capsule
Tegretol 100 mg/5 ml Suspension	carbamazepine 100 mg/5 ml suspension
Tegretol 200 mg Tablet	carbamazepine 200 mg tablet
Tegretol XR 100 mg Tablet	carbamazepine ER 100 mg tablet
Tegretol XR 200 mg Tablet	carbamazepine ER 200 mg tablet
Tegretol XR 400 mg Tablet	carbamazepine ER 400 mg tablet
Tekturna 150mg Tablet	aliskiren 150mg tablet
Tekturna 300mg Tablet	aliskiren 300mg tablet
TobraDex Eye Drops	tobramycin-dexamethasone drops
Tracleer 125mg Tablet	bosentan 125 mg tablet

Tracleer 62.5mg Tablet	bosentan 62.5 mg tablet
Transderm-Scop 1.5 mg/3 day	scopolamine 1 mg/3 day patch
Travatan Z 0.004% Eye Drop	travoprost 0.004% eye drop
Vagifem 10 mcg Vaginal Tablet	estradiol 10 mcg vaginal insert
Vesicare 5 mg Tablet	solifenacin succinate 5 mg tablet
Vesicare 10mg Tablet	solifenacin succinate 10 mg tablet
Vigamox 0.5% Eye Drops	moxifloxacin 0.5% eye drops
Voltaren 1% Gel	diclofenac 1% gel
Xenazine 12.5 mg Tablet	tetrabenazine 12.5 mg tablet
Xenazine 25 mg Tablet	tetrabenazine 25 mg tablet
Xopenex HFA 45 mcg Inhaler	Levalbuterol HFA inhaler
Zovirax 5% Cream	acyclovir 5% cream
Zovirax 5% Ointment	acyclovir 5% ointment

As a reminder, if a brand is preferred with a Non-Preferred generic equivalent, “medically necessary” is NOT needed on the face of the prescription in order for the brand product to be covered. Claims for preferred brands with non-preferred generics will be reimbursed with a generic product dispensing fee. Claims for preferred brands with no generic or preferred brands with preferred generics will be reimbursed with a brand dispensing fee.

When a PDL class has a preferred brand with a non-preferred generic, providers requesting prior approval for the non-preferred generic should give a clinical reason why the beneficiary cannot use the brand.

72-Hour Emergency Supply Available for Pharmacy Prior Authorization Drugs

Pharmacy providers are encouraged to use the 72-hour emergency supply allowed for drugs requiring prior approval. **Federal law requires that this emergency supply be available to Medicaid beneficiaries for drugs requiring prior approval** (Social Security Act, Section 1927, [42 U.S.C. 1396r-8\(d\)\(5\)\(B\)](#)). Use of this emergency supply will ensure access to medically necessary medications.

The system will bypass the prior approval requirement if an emergency supply is indicated. **Use a “3” in the Level of Service field (418-DI) to indicate that the transaction is an emergency fill.**

Note: Copayments will apply and only the drug cost will be reimbursed. There is no limit to the number of times the emergency supply can be used.

Checkwrite Schedule for May 2020

Electronic Cutoff Schedule

April 30, 2020
 May 7, 2020
 May 14, 2020
 May 21, 2020

Checkwrite Date

May 5, 2020
 May 12, 2020
 May 19, 2020
 May 27, 2020

POS claims must be transmitted and completed by 11:59 p.m. on the day of the electronic cutoff date to be included in the next checkwrite.

The 2020 checkwrite schedules for both DHB and DMH/DPH/ORH can be found under the Quick Links on the right side of the [NCTracks Provider Portal](#) home page.

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