



An Information Service of the Division of Health Benefits

## North Carolina Medicaid Pharmacy Newsletter

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## **Reminder on NC Medicaid Pharmacy Co-payment Requirements**

NC Medicaid recently received questions regarding Medicaid beneficiaries who cannot pay pharmacy copays for medication. A provider cannot refuse to provide services if a beneficiary cannot pay a copay at the time of service. The issue is addressed in [Pharmacy Policy 9](#) under section 5.5 Copayments. The specific guidance with reference is below.

### *5.5.1 Medicaid Co-payment Requirements*

*An eligible Medicaid beneficiary, who receives prescribed drugs, is required to make a copayment of \$4.00 for each prescription received unless they are exempt for one of the reasons listed below in Subsection 5.5.2. A provider may not deny services to any Medicaid beneficiary because of the individual's inability to pay a deductible, coinsurance or co-payment amount. A provider may not willfully discount copays for a Medicaid beneficiary, and an individual's inability to pay does not eliminate his or her liability for the cost sharing charge. The provider shall open an account for the beneficiary, collect the amount owed at a later date, and document all attempts to collect the copay. If the account has not been paid, the pharmacy may in the course of normal accounting principles, write-off the charges and stop monitoring the claim.*

## **Insulin Prior Authorization Extension for Type 1 Diabetes**

To improve patient access and streamline the prescribing process for NC Medicaid beneficiaries with Type 1 diabetes, prior authorization (PA) approvals for certain insulin products may now be extended for up to 3-years, effective May 1, 2025. This applies to the following specific insulin categories:

- Rapid-acting insulin,
- Short-acting insulin,
- Intermediate-acting insulin,
- Long-acting insulin,
- Premixed rapid combination insulin, and
- Premixed 70/30 combination insulin

All other diabetes diagnoses will continue to have a 1-year prior authorization.

## **Reminder: Immunizing Pharmacist Enrollment in NC Medicaid Contraceptives and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Protocol Reimbursement to Pharmacies**

NC Medicaid allows immunizing pharmacists to enroll as providers using the ordering prescribing referring (OPR) Lite application process. Enrolling pharmacists as providers will allow the immunizing pharmacist NPI to be the prescriber on Point of Sale (POS) pharmacy claims for products dispensed in accordance with the NC Board of Pharmacy statewide protocols. To reimburse for any medication, including those dispensed, per the state protocols, the prescriber must be an enrolled NC Medicaid provider. The pharmacist NPI will be the ordering provider on the medical claim submitted for the clinical services reimbursement to the pharmacy.

The protocols authorize immunizing pharmacists practicing pharmacy in the state of North Carolina to dispense, deliver, or administer five categories of medications:

- [Self-Administered Hormonal Contraceptives Protocol](#)
- [Nicotine Replacement Therapy Protocol](#)
- [Prenatal Vitamins Protocol](#)
- [Post-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PEP\) for HIV Protocol](#)
- [Glucagon Protocol](#)

The immunizing pharmacist must meet requirements to enroll as a NC Medicaid provider. NCTracks manages the application process for provider enrollment. Enrollment requirements follow:

- NC Pharmacy License must indicate immunizing pharmacist.
- Immunizing pharmacists must have their own individual NPI. The most efficient application process to obtain an NPI is the [National Plan & Provider Enumeration System](#) (NPPES). The name on the NPI, the enrollment application, and the license of the enrolling pharmacist must match.
- Enrollment is for the Pharmacy Service Provider taxonomy level 2 code 183500000X.
- Enrollment is an individual in state provider
- Enrollment is the OPR Lite enrollment application which has a \$100 fee. The application fee is paid when submitting the application.
  - The estimated completion time for OPR provider enrollment is approximately two weeks from the application submission (if there are no issues with the submitted application).
  - After submitting the application, applying providers should make sure to quickly respond to any notification regarding the application and reach out for assistance as soon as needed to ensure quick resolution of any open items impacting enrollment.

- For more information on OPR provider enrollment, please review the [Ordering, Prescribing, Rendering or Referring Provider \(OPR\) FAQs](#).

For enrollment guidance, go to the [NCTracks Provider Enrollment webpage](#):

- Click on [How to Enroll in North Carolina Medicaid as an Individual Practitioner job aid](#) under Quick Links.
- Select **Ordering, Prescribing, Referring Providers Enrolled with a Lite Application** under Provider Enrollment Application Type.
- The [Provider Permission Matrix on the NCTracks Provider Enrollment webpage](#) provides the requirements for the taxonomy level 2 code 183500000X.

Clinical Pharmacy Practitioners (CPPs) already enrolled in NC Medicaid will use the NCTracks manage change request (MCR) function to add the taxonomy level II code 18350000X to their record. CPPs enroll in NC Medicaid at a taxonomy level 3 code. Immunizing pharmacist enrollment is a taxonomy level 2 code. The CPP must meet the taxonomy Level 2 code requirements for immunizing pharmacists. No fee applies when using the MCR.

NC Medicaid is committed to supporting increased adoption and utilization of the statewide protocols and reimbursement to actively enrolled pharmacies. While the immunizing pharmacist performs the clinical services, the pharmacy will be reimbursed for the services rendered.

The clinical services reimbursement request is submitted as a medical claim. An individual provider cannot be reimbursed for the clinical services provided for the protocols. Reimbursement is made to the Pharmacy provider only. Pharmacy providers with the below taxonomies are allowed the clinical services reimbursement.

**The following four pharmacy taxonomies may bill for the clinical services reimbursement:**

- 3336C0002X – Clinic Pharmacy
- 3336C0003X – Community/Retail Pharmacy
- 3336C0004X – Compounding Pharmacy
- 3336L0003X – Long Term Care Pharmacy

Protocols eligible for clinical services reimbursement include self-administered hormonal contraceptives and nicotine replacement therapy. Below are details for claim submission.

**Preferred Brands with Non-Preferred Generics on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) Current as of May 1, 2025**

Brand Name	Generic Name
Actiq 1600 mcg Lozenges	Fentanyl Citrate 1600 mcg Lozenges
Actiq 400 mcg Lozenges	Fentanyl Citrate 400 mcg Lozenges
Advair 100-50 Diskus	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 100-50
Advair 250-50 Diskus	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 250-50
Advair 500-50 Diskus	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 500-50
Advair HFA 115-21 mcg Inhaler	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 115-21 HFA Inhaler
Advair HFA 230-21 mcg Inhaler	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 230-21 HFA Inhaler
Advair HFA 45-21 mcg Inhaler	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 45-21 HFA Inhaler
Alphagan P 0.1% Drops	Brimonidine P 0.1% Drops
Alphagan P 0.15% Drops	Brimonidine P 0.15% Drops
Anoro Ellipta 62.5-25 mcg Inhaler	Umeclidinium-Vilantero 62.5-25 Inhaler
Apriso ER 0.375 Gram Capsule	Mesalamine 0.375 mg Capsule
Banzel 200 mg Tablet	Rufinamide 200 mg Tablet
Banzel 400 mg Tablet	Rufinamide 400 mg Tablet
Bethkis 300 mg/4 ml Ampule	Tobramycin Solution 300 mg/4 ml Ampule
BiDil 20mg-37.5mg Tablet	Isosorbide DN 20mg/Hydralazine 37.5mg
Brilinta 90 mg Tablet	Ticagrelor 90 mg Tablet
Butrans 10 mcg/hr Patch	Buprenorphine 10 mcg/hr Patch
Butrans 15 mcg/hr Patch	Buprenorphine 15 mcg/hr Patch
Butrans 20 mcg/hr Patch	Buprenorphine 20 mcg/hr Patch
Butrans 5 mcg/hr Patch	Buprenorphine 5 mcg/hr Patch
Butrans 7.5 mcg/hr Patch	Buprenorphine 7.5 mcg/hr Patch
Byetta 10 mcg Dose Pen Inj	Exenatide 10 mcg Dose Pen Inj
Byetta 5 mcg Dose Pen Inj	Exenatide 5 mcg Dose Pen Inj
Celontin 300 mg Cap	Methsuximide 300 mg Cap
Cipro 10% Suspension	Ciprofloxacin 500 mg/5 ml Suspension
Cipro 5% Suspension	Ciprofloxacin 250 mg/5 ml Suspension

Combigan 0.2%-0.5% Eye Drops	Brimonidine-Timolol 0.2%-0.5%
Copaxone 20 mg/ml Syr	Glatiramer 20 mg/ml Syr
Copaxone 40 mg/ml Syr	Glatiramer 40 mg/ml Syr
Daytrana 10 mg/9 hr Patch	Methylphenidate 10 mg/9 hr Patch
Daytrana 15 mg/9 hr Patch	Methylphenidate 15 mg/9 hr Patch
Daytrana 20 mg/9 hr Patch	Methylphenidate 20 mg/9 hr Patch
Daytrana 30 mg/9 hr Patch	Methylphenidate 30 mg/9 hr Patch
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
Dexilant DR 30 mg Cap	Dexlansoprazole DR 30 mg Cap
Dexilant DR 60 mg Cap	Dexlansoprazole DR 60 mg Cap
Diclegis 10-10 DR	Doxylamine Succinate/Pyridoxine HCL 10-10 DR
Differin 0.3% Gel Pump	Adapalene 0.3% Gel Pump
Dymista Nasal Spray	Azelastine/Fluticasone Prop Nasal Spray
Elidel 1% Cream	Pimecrolimus 1% Cream
Emflaza 18 mg tablet	Deflazacort 18 mg tablet
Emflaza 30 mg tablet	Deflazacort 30 mg tablet
Emflaza 36 mg tablet	Deflazacort 36 mg tablet
Emflaza 6 mg tablet	Deflazacort 6 mg tablet
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
Farxiga 10 mg	Dapagliflozin 10 mg
Farxiga 5 mg	Dapagliflozin 5 mg
Flovent 250 mcg Diskus	Fluticasone Prop 250 mcg Diskus
Flovent 50 mcg Diskus	Fluticasone Prop 50 mcg Diskus
Humalog Kwikpen Mix 75-25	Insulin Lispro Mix 75-25
Kitabis Pak 300 mg/5 ml	Tobramycin Pak 300 mg/5 ml
Lotemax 0.5% Eye Drops	Loteprednol 0.5% Eye Drops
Natroba 0.9% Topical Susp	Spinosad 0.9% Topical Susp
Nexium DR 10 mg Packet	Esomeprazole DR 10 mg Packet

Nexium DR 2.5 mg Packet	Esomeprazole DR 2.5 mg Packet
Nexium DR 20 mg Packet	Esomeprazole DR 20 mg Packet
Nexium DR 40 mg Packet	Esomeprazole DR 40 mg Packet
Nexium DR 5 mg Packet	Esomeprazole DR 5 mg Packet
Novolog 100 U/ml Cartridge	Insulin Aspart 100 U/ml Cartridge
Nuversa Vaginal 1.3% Gel	Metronidazole Vaginal 1.3% Gel
Nuvigil 150 MG Tabs	Armodafinil 150 mg tabs
Nuvigil 200 MG Tabs	Armodafinil 200 mg tabs
Nuvigil 250 MG Tabs	Armodafinil 250 mg tabs
Nuvigil 50 MG Tabs	Armodafinil 50 mg tabs
Oxtellar XR 150 mg Tabs	Oxcarbazepine ER 150 mg Tabs
Oxtellar XR 300 mg Tabs	Oxcarbazepine ER 300 mg Tabs
Oxtellar XR 600 mg Tabs	Oxcarbazepine ER 600 mg Tabs
OxyContin ER 10mg Tablet	Oxycodone ER 10mg Tablet
OxyContin ER 20mg Tablet	Oxycodone ER 20mg Tablet
OxyContin ER 40mg Tablet	Oxycodone ER 40mg Tablet
OxyContin ER 80mg Tablet	Oxycodone ER 80mg Tablet
Paxil 10 mg/5 ml	Paroxetine 10 mg/5 ml
Pentasa 500 mg Capsule	Mesalamine ER 500 mg Capsule
Pradaxa 110 mg	Dabigatran 110 mg
Pradaxa 150 mg	Dabigatran 150 mg
Pradaxa 75 mg	Dabigatran 75 mg
Protonix 40 mg Suspension	Pantoprazole 40 mg Suspension
Provigil 100 mg	Modafinil 100 mg
Provigil 200 mg	Modafinil 200 mg
Pylera Capsules	Bismuth-Metro-Tetr 140-125-125
Restasis 0.05% Eye Emulsion	Cyclosporine 0.05% Eye Emulsion
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%

Retin-A Micro 0.04% Gel	Tretinoin Micro 0.04% Gel
Retin-A Micro 0.1% Gel	Tretinoin Micro 0.1% Gel
Sabril 500 mg Tablet	Vigabatrin 500 mg Tablet
Spiriva Handihaler 18 mcg Cap	Tiotropium 18 mcg Cap-Inhaler
Suboxone 12-3 mg Film	Buprenorphine/Naloxone 12-3 mg Film
Suboxone 2-0.5 mg Film	Buprenorphine/Naloxone 2-0.5 mg Film
Suboxone 4-1 mg Film	Buprenorphine/Naloxone 4-1 mg Film
Suboxone 8 mg-2 mg Film	Buprenorphine/Naloxone 8mg-2mg Film
Symbicort 160-4.5 mcg Inhaler	Budesonide-Formoterol 160-4.5 mcg Inhaler
Symbicort 80-4.5 mcg Inhaler	Budesonide-Formoterol 80-4.5 mcg Inhaler
Tekturna 150 mg Tablet	Aliskiren 150 mg Tablet
Tekturna 300 mg Tablet	Aliskiren 300 mg Tablet
Tracleer 125 mg Tablet	Bosentan 125 mg tablet
Tracleer 62.5 mg Tablet	Bosentan 62.5 mg tablet
Travatan Z 0.004% Eye Drop	Travoprost 0.004% Eye Drop
Vagifem 10 mcg Vaginal Tab	Estradiol 10 mcg Vaginal Insert
Ventolin HFA Inhaler	Albuterol HFA Inhaler
Victoza 2-pak 18 mg/3 ml Pen	Liraglutide 18 mg/3 ml Pen
Vyvanse 10 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 10 mg Cap
Vyvanse 20 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 20 mg Cap
Vyvanse 30 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 30 mg Cap
Vyvanse 40 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 40 mg Cap
Vyvanse 50 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 50 mg Cap
Vyvanse 60 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 60 mg Cap
Vyvanse 70 mg Cap	Lisdexamfetamine 70 mg Cap
Xarelto 2.5 mg Tablet	Rivaroxaban 2.5 mg Tablet
Xigduo XR 10mg-1000mg Tablet	Dapagliflozin-Metfor ER 10-1000 Tablet
Xigduo XR 5mg-1000mg Tablet	Dapagliflozin-Metfor ER 5-1000 Tablet
Xopenex HFA 45 mcg Inhaler	Levalbuterol HFA 45 mcg Inhaler
Zovirax 5% Cream	Acyclovir 5% Cream



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. There is no limit to the number of times the emergency supply can be used.

## **Checkwrite Schedule for June 2025**

<b>Electronic Cutoff Schedule</b>	<b>Checkwrite Date</b>
May 29, 2025	June 3, 2025
June 5, 2025	June 10, 2025
June 12, 2025	June 17, 2025

*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 2025 checkwrite schedules for both NC Medicaid and DMH/DPH/ORH can be found under the Quick Links on the right side of the home page.

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