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Kevin R. Walter, Press Secretary, Ohio Department of Medicaid
614-752-3688 | Kevin.Walter@medicaid.ohio.gov

Ohio Medicaid Finalizes Unified Preferred Drug List

Initiative will streamline pharmacy benefits and ease administrative burdens

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has finalized and published the Unified Preferred Drug List (UPDL) in preparation for January 1, 2020, implementation. The initiative is another step toward reforming Medicaid pharmacy services and preparing to establish a single pharmacy benefit manager for the Medicaid program.

“Our focus is on ensuring Medicaid members can safely access their prescriptions without potential delays, while reducing confusion for providers,” said Maureen Corcoran, director of ODM.

“Maintaining a single, consistent list of medications also increases transparency, which aligns with our strategy and approach to the pharmacy benefit in Medicaid.”

The new preferred drug list means all Ohio managed care plans will use a standard drug list and the same prior authorization criteria. In cases where a Medicaid member changes plans, the member will not be required to change medications.

Any drug will continue to be available to Medicaid members, even if it is not on the UPDL. This simplified approach will help both prescribers and members by assuring them they do not have to navigate multiple processes to get the same prescription filled. Members who receive both Medicaid and Medicare benefits (MyCare Ohio) will not be affected by this change.

ODM is committed to easing the burden on providers delivering care and Medicaid members receiving care as it continues to implement Governor DeWine’s priority of increasing transparency and accountability in health care. Additional information on the UPDL and the finalized drug list are available on the [ODM website](#).

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