

To: Pharmacy Network
From: IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Department
Date: October 16, 2025
Subject: **Important Prescription Drug Benefit Updates Coming in 2026**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is implementing new rules that will affect member out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions that will **apply to ALL health insurance plans, starting January 1, 2026.**

Beginning in January, you may see some medications that were previously covered, now rejected due to changes to our formulary. If your member's claim is rejected, make sure to review the reason for rejection, such as the drug is no longer on our formulary or the drug has new quantity limits. Please refer to our formulary for covered drugs and limits.

If formulary drugs are not appropriate, please send a request to the member's prescriber to submit a prior authorization to IEHP.

How to Help

Here are some ways you can help our members save money on their prescription drug costs:

1. Provide a 100-day supply instead of a one-month (31-day) supply for their maintenance medications.
 - a. The member will pay the same amount for the 100-day supply as a one-month supply.
2. Encourage the member to speak to their doctor about switching to generic drugs instead of brand-name drugs.
 - a. Generic drugs tend to be cheaper and work just as well.
3. Notify the member of any combination drugs; suggest they speak to their doctor about switching to a combination drug, reducing prescriptions, and out-of-pocket costs.

Please help the member understand that this change affects all Medicare plans and does not apply only to IEHP.

We value your collaboration and ongoing commitment to help our members achieve and sustain optimal health.

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All Pharmacy communications sent by IEHP can also be found at: www.providerservices.iehp.org > Pharmacy > Pharmacy Resources > Pharmacy Provider Communications