



JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR

ALAN LEVINE, SECRETARY

July 7, 2005

### Changes to the Florida Medicaid Preferred Drug List

Dear Medicaid Provider:

On July 11, 2005, changes to the Florida Medicaid Pharmacy Program will occur that affect medication choices previously available on the Preferred Drug List (PDL). The Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee met June 29 and removed the branded and generic drugs listed below from the PDL. Additional changes will be made until all therapeutic categories are reviewed by the P&T with completion expected by October 1. Updates to the PDL are made after each P&T meeting and will be posted on the Medicaid website at: [http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/Prescribed\\_Drug/](http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/Prescribed_Drug/). Attached are the guidelines for PDL development.

Drugs removed from the Preferred Drug List (PDL) at the June 29<sup>th</sup> P&T meeting:

Coly-Mycin S Otic  
Flunisolide (Nasal); Ipratropium (Nasal); Rhinocort Aqua  
AeroBID & AeroBID-M; Pulmicort Respules  
Metaglip; Riomet  
Uroxatral; Flomax  
Spectracef; cefuroxime (oral); cefpodoxime (generic); Omnicef for patients more than 12 years old  
Micardis/Micardis HCT; Teveten/Teveten HCT  
Inderal LA; Betaxolol; Innopran XL; bisoprolol  
Pemoline; Concerta  
Fosinopril (generic); Aceon; Quinapril

In addition the following drugs from previously exempt categories (MENTAL HEALTH DRUGS) were removed from the PDL:

paroxetine (generic); Prozac Weekly; fluvoxamine (generic); Sarafem  
Nefazodone; Effexor XR; Bupropion SR (generic); Cymbalta  
Symbyax; Zyprexa  
Felbatol; Peganone; Phenytek, Tegretol XR; Trileptal; Lamictal; Zonegran; Topamax; Keppra; Equetro;  
Gabitril; Klonopin; Depakote ER

Finally, the following drugs were recommended to be removed but will remain on the PDL until September 30, 2005:

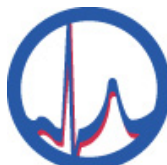
Zoloft, Lipitor and Caduet

Again, thank you for your assistance in providing medical care to our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Arnold  
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

Enclosures (guidelines and PDL)



## Statutory Framework for the Modified Preferred Drug List

- Products in each therapeutic class will be presented to the P&T committee with their relevant clinical efficacy and relative net cost positions.
- The P&T committee will recommend the most cost effective drugs in each therapeutic category for inclusion on the (PDL) which will be a minimum of two products where available and could represent three or more products in many categories.
- Products included on the PDL must be prescribed first unless the patient has previously used these products unsuccessfully or the prescriber submits documentation justifying the use of a non-PDL product.
- A step-therapy process using PDL-included drugs will then permit prior authorization (PA) for non-listed drugs.
- HIV/AIDS-related anti-retroviral products are included on the PDL by statutory exemption and, in general, do not require PA.
- Mental health drugs are not exempt from PDL requirements.
- Nursing home residents are not exempt from PDL requirements.
- There is no limit on the number of brand-name drugs if they are on the PDL.
- Medicaid will continue the policy of expanding the use of available over-the-counter-drugs (OTC) where these are more cost effective.