



## **2021 Transition Policy for CarePlus Part D Prescription Drug Coverage**

CarePlus wants to be sure that you, as a new or existing member, safely transition into the 2021 plan year. In 2021, you may not be able to receive your current drug therapy if the medicine:

- Is not on CarePlus' drug list (i.e. is "non-formulary" or "not covered") or
- Has utilization management requirements, such as prior authorization, quantity limits, or step therapy requirements

### **One-time transition supply at a retail or mail-order pharmacy**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, when you have limited ability to receive your current prescription therapy:

- CarePlus will cover a one-time, 30 day supply of a Part D covered drug unless the prescription is written for less than 30 days (in which case, CarePlus will allow multiple fills to provide up to a total of 30 days of medications) during the first 90 days of your eligibility for the current plan year, or during the first 90 days of your enrollment beginning on your effective day of coverage, when your current prescription therapy is filled at a retail/mail order pharmacy. CarePlus will provide refills for transition prescriptions dispensed for less than the written amount due to quantity limits for safety purposes or drug utilization edits that are based on approved product labeling.
- After you receive a transition supply, you'll receive a letter that explains the temporary nature of the transition medication supply. After you receive the letter, talk to your prescriber and decide if you should switch to an alternative drug or request an exception or prior authorization. CarePlus may not pay for refills of temporary supply drugs until an exception or prior authorization has been requested and approved.

### **Transition supply for residents of long-term care facilities**

CarePlus assists members in long-term care facilities who transition between plans, have both Medicare and full Medicaid benefits, or submit an exception or an appeal request. For long term care residents, CarePlus will cover a 31 day supply unless the prescription is written for less than 31 days (in which case CarePlus will allow multiple fills to provide up to a total of 31 days of medication) of a Part D covered drug. This coverage is offered anytime during the first 90 days of your eligibility for the current plan year or during the first 90 days of your enrollment, which begins on your effective date of coverage, when your current prescription

therapy is filled at a long-term care pharmacy. If your ability to receive your drug therapy is limited, but you're past the first 90 days of membership in your plan, CarePlus will cover a 31 day emergency supply unless the prescription is written for less than 31 days. In that case, CarePlus will allow multiple fills to provide up to a total of 31 days of a Part D covered drug so you can continue therapy while you pursue an exception or prior authorization. If you are being admitted to or discharged from a long-term care facility, you will be allowed to access a refill upon admission or discharge, and early refill edits will not apply.

### **Transition supply for current members**

Throughout the plan year, you may have a change in your treatment setting due to the level of care you require. Such transitions include:

- Members discharged from a hospital or skilled nursing facility to a home setting
- Members admitted to a hospital or skilled nursing facility from a home setting
- Members who transfer from one skilled nursing facility to another and serviced by a different pharmacy
- Members who end their skilled nursing facility Medicare Part A stay (where payments include all pharmacy charges) and who need to now use their Part D plan benefit
- Members who give up Hospice status and revert back to standard Medicare Part A and B coverage
- Members discharged from chronic psychiatric hospitals with highly individualized drug regimens

For these changes in treatment settings, CarePlus will cover up to a 31 day supply of a Part D covered drug. If you change treatment settings multiple times within the same month, you may have to request an exception or prior authorization and receive approval for continued coverage of your drug.

CarePlus will review these requests for continuation of therapy on a case-by-case basis when you have a stabilized drug regimen that, if altered, is known to have risks.

### **Transition across contract years**

CarePlus provides a transition process for current members consistent with the transition process required for new members. For current members whose drugs will be affected by negative formulary changes in the upcoming year, CarePlus will effectuate a meaningful transition providing a transition process at the start of the new contract year. CarePlus also extends the transition policy across contract years should a member enroll into a plan with an effective enrollment date of either November 1 or December 1 and need access to a transition supply.

## **Distinguishing brand new prescriptions**

CarePlus ensures it will apply all transition processes to a brand-new prescription for drugs not on CarePlus's formulary drug list or that have utilization management requirements, if it cannot make the distinction between a brand-new prescription and an ongoing prescription at the point-of-sale. To distinguish ongoing therapy, members must have a minimum of a 108 day claims history. CarePlus will look-back 180 days from the member effective date or the beginning of the current plan year, for prior utilization of the drug when claims history is available.

## **Transition member notices**

CarePlus's policy is to ensure a notice of the transition event is sent to the member for the transition claim. All transition policy notification letters are mailed to members via U.S. first class mail within three (3) business days of the transition fill event being recognized by the point of sale adjudication system. These letters contain the following language elements:

- The transition supply provided is temporary and may not be refilled outside the transition period unless a formulary exception or other authorization is approved;
- The member should work with CarePlus as well as his or her prescriber to satisfy utilization management requirements or to identify appropriate therapeutic alternatives that are on CarePlus's formulary and that will likely reduce his or her costs;
- The member has the right to request a formulary exception, the timeframes for processing the exception, and the member's right to request an appeal if the sponsor issues an unfavorable decision; and
- CarePlus's procedures for requesting exceptions.

For long-term care (LTC) residents dispensed multiple supplies of a Part D drug in increments of 14 (or less) days, the transition policy notification letter will be mailed within three (3) business days after processing of the first temporary fill.

## **Transition prescriber notices**

CarePlus's policy is to ensure a notice of the transition event is sent to the prescriber on record for the transition claim. The prescriber letter provides the following information:

- Member Name
- Member Date of Birth
- Drug Name
- Date of Fill
- Utilization Management Edit
- Directions on how to use CarePlus's Provider Drug List Search tool
- Information on CarePlus's Coverage Determination Process

## **Cost-sharing for drugs provided through the transition policy**

- If you're eligible for the low-income subsidy (LIS) in 2021, your copayment or coinsurance for a temporary supply of drugs provided during your transition period won't exceed your LIS limit.

- For non-LIS enrollees, the copayment or coinsurance will be based on the approved drug cost-sharing tiers for your plan and is consistent with the cost-sharing tier CarePlus would charge for non-formulary drugs approved under a coverage exception and the same cost sharing for formulary drugs subject to utilization management edits provided during the transition that would apply once the utilization management criteria are met.

## **Transition extension**

CarePlus makes arrangements to continue to provide necessary drugs to you via an extension of the transition period, on a case-by-case basis, to the extent that your exception request or appeal has not been processed by the end of the minimum transition period and until such time as a transition has been made (either through a switch to an appropriate formulary drug or a decision on an exception request).

## **Pharmacy and therapeutics committee**

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) committee has oversight of CarePlus's Part D drug list and associated policies. The P&T committee designed these policies for certain Part D drugs. These policies are designed to make sure the drug is used based on medically accepted clinical guidelines for indications where the drug has been proven safe and effective and is prescribed according to manufacturer recommendations.

After you receive your temporary supply of a Part D drug, your medication may require medical review if:

- It's not on the drug list or
- Has utilization management requirements, such as prior authorization, quantity limits, or step therapy requirements

If you're stabilized on a drug not on the drug list or a drug requiring prior authorization, quantity limits, or have tried other drug alternatives, your prescriber can provide CarePlus with a statement of your clinical history to help with the prior authorization or exception request process.

## **Procedures for requesting an exception or changing prescriptions**

### **How do I request an exception?**

The first step in requesting an exception is for you or your prescriber to contact us. Your prescriber must submit a statement supporting your request. The prescriber's statement must indicate that the requested drug is medically necessary for treating your condition because none of the drugs we cover would be as effective as the requested drug or would have adverse effects for you. If the exception involves a prior authorization, quantity limit, or other limit we have placed on that drug, the prescriber's statement must indicate that the prior authorization, or limit, would not be appropriate given your condition or would have adverse effects for you.

Once the prescriber's statement is submitted, we must notify you of our decision no later than 24 hours (expedited) or 72 hours (standard) from the date and time the prescriber's statement is received. Your request will be expedited if we determine, or your prescriber informs us, that your life, health, or ability to regain maximum function may be seriously jeopardized by waiting for a standard request.

### **What if my request is denied?**

If your drug is not covered on our formulary, or is covered on our formulary but we have placed a utilization management requirement such as prior authorization, step therapy, or quantity limit on it, you can ask us if we cover another drug used to treat your medical condition. If we cover another drug for your condition, we encourage you to ask your prescriber if these drugs that we cover are an option for you.

If your request is denied, you also have the right to appeal by asking for a review of the denial decision. You must request this appeal within 60 calendar days from the date of the written denial notice.

If you need assistance in requesting an exception or appeal, help in switching to an alternative drug, or for more information about our transition policy, call Member Services at 1-800-794-5907; TTY: 711. From October 1 - March 31, we are open 7 days a week; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. From April 1 - September 30, we are open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. You may always leave a voicemail after hours, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays and we will return your call within one business day.

Prior authorization and exception request forms are available to you and your prescribing physician on CarePlus's website at [www.CarePlusHealthPlans.com](http://www.CarePlusHealthPlans.com), or by calling Member Services to have it mailed or faxed.

### **Public notice of transition policy**

This Transition Policy is available on CarePlus's website, [www.CarePlusHealthPlans.com](http://www.CarePlusHealthPlans.com), in the same area where the Part D Formulary is displayed.

CarePlus Health Plans, Inc. complies with applicable Federal Civil Rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ancestry, marital status, or religion in their programs and activities, including in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, their programs and activities. Any inquiries regarding CarePlus' non-discrimination policies and/or H1019\_PHATransitionPolicyWeb2021\_C

to file a complaint, also known as a grievance, please contact Member Services at 1-800-794-5907 (TTY: 711).

**Español (Spanish):** Esta información está disponible de forma gratuita en otros idiomas. Favor de llamar a Servicios para Afiliados al número que aparece anteriormente.

**Kreyòl Ayisyen (French Creole):** Enfòmasyon sa a disponib gratis nan lòt lang. Tanpri rele nimewo Sèvis pou Manm nou yo ki nan lis anwo an.