

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Members Regarding the Uniform Preferred Drug List

What is a Preferred Drug List (PDL)?

The Preferred Drug List (PDL) is created by the Department of Human Services (DHS) in consultation with the Drug Formulary Committee. The PDL is created to help prescribers and members choose safe, effective, and lower-cost drugs. Preferred drugs have fewer restrictions than Non-preferred drugs. Non-preferred drugs will need a prior authorization. The PDL is available on DHS's website: https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/preferred-drug-list-fee-for-service_tcm1053-292127.pdf

What is changing, when, and why?

Starting July 1, 2019, all of the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that offer drug benefits for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) members must use DHS's PDL. Members enrolled with an MCO will have access to all of the drugs on the PDL. They will also have access to other drugs on their plan's *List of Covered Drugs* (formulary). This change does not apply to members with dual Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

DHS developed the PDL and requires MCOs to use it for the following reasons:

- It reduces disruptions in therapy when a member moves from one plan to another
- It encourages the use of the most cost-effective drugs within a PDL drug class
- It simplifies pharmacy benefits for prescribers and pharmacies

Will I have to change to a different drug?

Not necessarily. Many of the drugs on the PDL are widely used and won't require any changes by your prescriber. If you are taking a non-preferred drug, your prescriber will need to either change your prescription to a preferred drug or ask for a prior authorization from your health plan or DHS for you to continue taking it.

What should I do if my drug is non-preferred on the PDL?

You should contact your prescriber if you are taking a non-preferred drug to let them know that it will not be covered as of July 1, 2019 unless a prior authorization is approved. Ask your prescriber to help you find a preferred drug that will work just as well for you or ask for prior authorization for the non-preferred drug.

If I already have a prior authorization for a drug and it is not included on the PDL (or removed), will I need to get a new authorization?

If you have an existing prior authorization for a drug that is not included on the PDL, the prior authorization will be honored by the health plan or DHS until it expires.

How long does it take for my prescriber to get a prior authorization for a drug?

DHS or the MCO responsible for your coverage will respond to a drug prior authorization request within 24 hours to inform your prescriber if the request is approved, denied, or if more information is needed.