

New York State Medicaid Preferred Drug Program

A GUIDE FOR PEOPLE
WITH MEDICAID



What is the Medicaid Preferred Drug Program (PDP)?

This program encourages doctors to prescribe certain drugs, called “preferred” drugs. When they prescribe other similar drugs which are not included on the preferred drug list, they need to get special approval (prior authorization) before you can receive the drug.

Who decides which drugs are “preferred”?

A committee made up of doctors, pharmacists, and patient advocates works with the Department of Health to review drugs and identify those that are safe, effective and less expensive. Preferred drugs have been found to be as effective as non-preferred drugs.

What if I don’t want to change my medications?

Only your doctor can decide which drugs you should take. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions about changes made to your prescriptions.

Need help? Call the Medicaid Helpline:
1-800-541-2831



Remember:

- All drugs that Medicaid currently covers are still available.
- Only your doctor can decide which drugs you should take.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions about your medicine.

What if I need my medication and the doctor’s office is closed?

If your doctor cannot be contacted, and you have a valid prescription, the pharmacist can give you a 72-hour emergency supply of medicine until your doctor can be contacted.

For more information,
visit the NYS Medicaid Preferred
Drug Program Website:

<https://newyork.fhsc.com>

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