



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 22, 2021

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

Beginning on May 1, 2021, the pharmacy benefit for New York Medicaid Managed Care members will be transitioned to the Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) Pharmacy Program. This change applies to all mainstream Managed Care Plans (MCPs), including Health and Recovery Plans (HARPS) and HIV Special Needs Plans (HIV SNPS). For more information about the Pharmacy Carve-out please visit:

[https://health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy\\_carve\\_out/](https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_carve_out/).

With this change, Medicaid Managed Care members will be subject to the NYS Medicaid Brand less than Generic (BLTG) program. The BLTG program promotes the use of certain multi-source brand name drugs when they are **less** expensive, after rebates, than the generic equivalent. For a current listing of brand name drugs included in the BLTG Program see the most recent program update found here :

[https://newyork.fhsc.com/providers/BLTGP\\_about.asp](https://newyork.fhsc.com/providers/BLTGP_about.asp)

The BLTG program conforms with State Education Law which intends that patients receive the lower cost alternative. Brand name drugs included in this program:

- do not require 'Dispense as Written' (DAW) or 'Brand Medically Necessary' on the prescription;
- have a generic copayment;
- are paid at the brand reimbursement rate or usual and customary price, whichever is lower (SMAC/FUL are not applied); and
- do not require a new prescription if the drug is removed from this program.

Our records indicate that <<# of claims>> Medicaid Managed Care prescription claims have been processed by your pharmacy for the generic version of a drug in the BLTG program. Effective May 1, 2021, you will receive the following denial message if you submit these claims to the FFS program. You can avoid claim denials by dispensing the brand name products. As mentioned above, a new prescription is **not** required.

### Pharmacy Claim Denial Message:

<b>NCPDP Response Code/Message</b>	421	Dispense Brand Drug Instead of Generic Equivalent
<b>NCPDP Reject Code/Message</b>	78	Cost Exceeds Maximum

If you would like to be notified of changes to the BLTG Program and other NYS FFS Medicaid pharmacy programs, you may request to be added to the email distribution list at:

<https://newyork.fhsc.com/providers/notify.asp>.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance in providing a smooth transition for NYS Medicaid members.

Sincerely,

Medicaid Pharmacy Program