



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: March 18, 2020  
Contact: Herman Kranc @ 860-424-5218

**TO: Pharmacies and Prescribing Providers**

**RE: CMAP COVID-19 Response – Bulletin 3 Emergency Pharmacy Program Changes**

As an interim measure in response to the Governor’s recent declaration of a public health emergency as the result of the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Department of Social Services (DSS) is temporarily taking steps to eliminate obstacles to beneficiaries accessing care. This includes changes related to pharmacy services as specified below, effective for dates of service from March 18, 2020 until DSS has notified providers in writing that the state has deemed COVID-19 no longer to be a public health emergency or DSS otherwise determines in writing that some or all of these specific measures are no longer needed to help protect the public health (the “Temporary Effective Period”).

**HUSKY B Co-Pay:**

Effective during the Temporary Effective Period, DSS will waive cost sharing requirements for prescription drugs provided to HUSKY B beneficiaries. HUSKY B co-pays must not be collected from members. DSS will pay up to the full Medicaid reimbursement amount minus any amount paid by another insurer.

**Medicare Part D Co-Pay:**

Effective during the Temporary Effective Period, DSS will waive monthly Medicare Part D co-pay requirements for Dual Eligible Husky Low Income Subsidy individuals. Medicare monthly co-pays should not be collected from members. DSS will pay up to the full Medicaid reimbursement amount minus any amount paid by another insurer.

**Change to Early Refill Criteria:**

Effective during the Temporary Effective Period, the pharmacy early refill threshold has been reduced from 93% to 80%. Prior Authorization (PA) will be required when the patient seeks to refill a prescription but has consumed less than 80% of the medication supply.

The temporary early refill percentage change will apply to:

- prescriptions filled for any day supply
- prescriptions for drugs from any therapeutic class (including controlled substances)
- prescriptions filled by both in-state and out-of-state pharmacies

An early refill claim, where the patient has used less than 80% of the previous prescription at the time of the fill will cause the claim to deny and the following Early Refill (ER) Drug Utilization Review (DUR) alert message will be returned to the pharmacy: “Claim generated an alert that requires PA.” Unless the drug is a controlled substance, the pharmacist may call DXC Technology to request authorization.

**Quantity Limits and Day Supply Limits:**

Effective during the Temporary Effective Period, DSS is increasing the established maximum allowable unit and days’ supply for prescriptions of non-maintenance drugs that are not controlled substances. The maximum day supply is increasing to ninety (90) days.

Additionally, effective during the Temporary Effective Period, prescriptions for Hepatitis C drugs may be dispensed for a maximum of forty-two (42) days for individuals with an approved Hepatitis C PA.

Quantity limits for maintenance medications are being waived for prescriptions up to the maximum of a ninety (90) day supply.

**Note:** There are no changes to requirements for controlled substances. The above-referenced quantity limit and day supply limit changes do not apply to controlled substances.

**Please Note:** Maintenance and non-maintenance drug classification is determined by First Data Bank.

These actions are part of the broader effort to ensure that all HUSKY beneficiaries – particularly those at high-risk of complications from the COVID-19 virus – have access to the benefits that can help keep them healthy while helping to contain the spread of this virus. To keep up to date with the latest information from the state, resources, and guidance related to COVID-19, please visit the [ct.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ct.gov/coronavirus) Web site.

#### **Other Response Measures to COVID-19:**

In addition to the changes detailed in this bulletin and previously issued CMAP COVID-19 Response Bulletin 1 and 2, DSS also plans to implement other measures to address the needs of our members and provider community in response to COVID-19. Additional guidance will be forthcoming related to various topics, such as non-emergency transportation, medical HUSKY B cost-share, and other COVID-19 changes under separate provider bulletins.

For questions about billing or if further assistance is needed to access the fee schedules on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) Web site, please contact the Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

#### **Posting Instructions:**

Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at [www.ctdssmap.com](http://www.ctdssmap.com).

#### **Distribution:**

This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by DXC Technology.

#### **Responsible Units:**

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**Date Issued:** March 2020