

Template Version: 20240531

Title: Medicare Part D Enrollee Transition Plans H5212 PACE and H2034 HMO SNP

Policy Identifier: PA - Pharmacy

Scope: () Organization Wide
() Program Operations () Family Care (X) Partnership (X) PACE
() Departmental:

Related Documents:

Policy Statement:

Consistent with the requirements of the Medicare Part D regulations, Community Care will provide services to effectively transition new enrollees' medications and address transition needs of current enrollees.

Transition medication fills are automatically available to enrollees at the point-of-sale with no further action required by the pharmacy. Transition fills are subject to some specific edits. (See Transition Process sections.)

Purpose:

To establish safeguards for a smooth transition process for plan enrollees while maintaining maximum flexibility in managing their prescription drug benefit offerings. A transition process, consistent with 42 CFR 423.120(b)(3) is necessary to:

1. Transition new enrollees into prescription drug plans following the annual coordinated election period;
2. Transition newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries from other coverage;
3. Transition enrollees who switch from one plan to another after the start of a contract year;
4. Transition current enrollees affected by negative formulary changes across contract years; and
5. Transition enrollees residing in Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities. (Attestation #1)

Community Care will submit this policy to CMS for Plans H5212 and H2034. This document defines time periods associated with enrollee transition processes.

Definitions:

Transition Policy: Non-formulary drugs mean both:

1. Part D drugs that are not on Community Care's Formulary; and

2. Part D drugs on the Community Care Formulary but requires prior authorization or step therapy or that have an approved quantity limit lower than the beneficiary's current dose under utilization management rules. (Attestation #3)

LIS: Low-Income Subsidy

PBM: Pharmacy Benefits Management

Procedures:

A. General Transition Process

1. When a new enrollee first presents at a participating pharmacy with a prescription for a drug that is not on the formulary, a one-time, temporary supply of non-formulary Part D drug will be provided in order to accommodate the immediate needs of an enrollee, as well as to allow the pharmacy and/or the enrollee sufficient time to work out with the prescriber an appropriate switch to a therapeutically equivalent medication or the completion of an exception request to maintain coverage of an existing drug based on reasons of medical necessity.
 - a. Community Care will provide a temporary one-month supply when an enrollee presents at a pharmacy to request a refill of a non-formulary Part D drug within the first 90 days of their coverage under the new Plan. (Attestation #4)
 - b. With the exception of the long-term care setting, such a temporary fill may be a one-time fill only.
2. Refills of prescriptions dispensed for less than the prescribed amount due to quantity limits, for safety purposes or drug utilization, edits will be permitted up to the written amount based on approved product labeling.
3. Transition periods will not be affected by the end/beginning of contract years.
 - a. Community Care will extend this policy across contract years should a member enroll with an effective date of either November 1 or December 1 and need access to a transition supply. (Attestation #13)
4. Any cost sharing for medications supplied under the transition process will not exceed the statutory maximum copayment amounts for LIS eligible enrollees.
 - a. For LIS eligible enrollees, the cost sharing for a temporary supply of drugs will not exceed the statutory maximum copayment.
5. For non-LIS eligible enrollees, Community Care will ensure that the cost sharing for a temporary supply of medications provided under this process is the same for non-formulary drugs approved through a formulary exception in accordance with 42CFR 423.578(b) 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. (Attestation #6)
6. Until alternative transactional coding is implemented in a new version of the HIPAA standard, Community Care and its Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) subcontractor will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate systems are in place to accomplish goals (related to messaging) communicated through NCPDP for Part D claims adjudication. Otherwise, Community Care and its PBM

will utilize alternative approaches that achieve the goals intended in the messaging guidance.

7. When a transition-supply prescription claim is paid via Community Care's PBM, the pharmacy will be notified via an electronic message informing them the fill was part of a transition supply.
 - a. If the claim encounters a valid transitional reject, a message is returned to the pharmacy to indicate the reason for the rejection.
8. Once the transition period has ended, Community Care's PBM will reject pharmacy claims for which medications are non-formulary or exceed plan limitations.
9. The transition process is to be applied to a brand-new prescription for a non-formulary drug if it cannot make the distinction between a brand-new prescription for a non-formulary drug and an ongoing prescription for a non-formulary drug at the point-of-sale. (Attestation #10)
10. Community Care will ensure that reasonable efforts are made to notify prescribers of affected enrollees who receive a transition notice.

B. Medical Review for Non-Formulary Medications

1. In the event a request for a non-formulary medication or in the case a new Part D plan enrollee requires a switch to a formulary alternative that has failed an affirmative medical necessity determination, one of Community Care's clinical Pharmacists will confer with member's physician or nurse practitioner to ensure the member receives the appropriate medication therapy. Ultimately, the medication covered for the member will be an alternative or otherwise the originally prescribed medication. (Attestation #3)
2. The intent is for a medical review to be performed, so the member has access to needed medications.

C. Transition Process in the Retail Setting (Attestation #5)

1. Community Care will ensure that, in the retail setting, the transition policy provides for a one time of at least a month's supply of medication, unless the prescriber writes the prescription for less than a month's supply.
2. Community Care will ensure the enrollee receives refills for transition prescriptions dispensed for less than the written amount due to quantity limit, safety edits or drug utilization edits based on manufacturer approved product labeling. (Attestation #9)
3. The total month's supply of medication may be filled at any time during the first 90 days of the Community Care enrollment, beginning on the effective date of coverage.
4. During transition, Community Care may only apply the following utilization management edits during transition at point-of-sale:
 - a. To determine Part A or B versus Part D coverage;
 - b. To prevent coverage of a non-Part D drug; and
 - c. To promote safe utilization of a Part D drug. (Attestation #8)
5. Step therapy and prior authorization edits must be resolved at the point-of-sale.

D. Current Enrollee Transitions

1. When a member has an unplanned transition typically involving a change in level of care, Community Care is required to make coverage determinations and redeterminations as expeditiously as the enrollee's health condition requires.
2. Community Care will provide transition supplies while an exception is processed.
3. When a prescription change results in the early depletion of a prescription, Community Care will not deny as "too soon" a request for refill.
4. When a drug is removed from Community Care's formulary (i.e., negative formulary change), all enrollees affected by this change will be provided with a transition process consistent with this policy by:
 - a. Providing a transition process at the start of the new contract year; or
 - b. Effectuating a transition prior to the start of a new contract year.

E. Transition Process in the Long-Term Care (LTC) Setting (Attestation #7)

1. Additional review is required when transitioning residents of LTC facilities since they are more likely to be receiving multiple medications for which simultaneous changes could significantly impact the condition of the enrollee.
2. Community Care will work with network LTC pharmacies and facilities prior to the effective date of enrollment to ensure a seamless transition of the facility's residents.
3. The temporary supply of non-formulary Part D drugs for an enrollee in a LTC facility will be for up to a one-month supply, consistent with the applicable dispensing increment in the long-term care setting (unless the prescription is written for less) with refills provided during the first 90 days of enrollment, beginning on the enrollee's effective date of coverage.
4. During transition, Community Care may only apply the following utilization management edits during transition at point-of-sale:
 - a. To determine Part A or B versus Part D coverage;
 - b. To prevent coverage of a non-Part D drug; and
 - c. To promote safe utilization of a Part D drug. (Attestation #8)
5. Current enrollees entering LTC settings from other care settings will be provided emergency supplies of non-formulary drugs. Early refill edits are not used to limit appropriate and necessary access to Part D benefits.
6. Community Care will allow an enrollee to access a refill upon admission or discharge from a LTC facility if he/she does not have access to the remainder of a previously dispensed prescription. Early refill edits are not used to limit appropriate and necessary access to Part D benefits.
7. Community Care will honor multiple fills of non-formulary Part D drugs as necessary during the entire length of the 90-day transition period for residents of LTC facilities.
8. An emergency supply of non-formulary Part D drugs will be provided after the 90-day transition period while an exception or prior authorization is requested.
 - a. LTC emergency supplies for 31 days (unless the prescription is written for less than 31 days).

- b. An emergency fill will be a one-time fill only.
- F. Continuation of the Transition Period**
- 1. Community Care will make arrangements to continue to provide necessary drugs to an enrollee via an extension of the transition period, on a case-by-case basis, to the extent his/her 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 decision on an exception request). (Attestation # 15)
 - 2. Community Care will provide affected enrollees with clear guidance regarding how to proceed after a temporary fill is provided so that an appropriate and meaningful transition can be effectuated by the end of the transition period.
 - 3. Until the transition is actually made, either through a switch to an appropriate formulary drug or decision of an exception request, Community Care will provide continuation of drug coverage other than for drugs not covered under Medicare Part D. (Attestation #16)
- G. Communication of the Transition Process**
- 1. Community Care must provide enrollees with appropriate notice regarding their transition process within a reasonable amount of time after providing a temporary supply of non-formulary Part D drugs. It is further understood that Community Care will ensure reasonable efforts are made to notify prescribers of affected enrollees receiving a transition notice.
 - a. A written notice must be sent within three business days of adjudication of a temporary transition fill, via U.S. First Class mail, to each enrollee receiving transition fills. (Attestation #11)
 - i. For enrollees in the LTC setting, dispensed multiple supplies of a Part D drug in increments of 14 day supplies or less consistent with the requirements under 42 CFR 423.154(a)(1)(i), the written notice must be provided within three business days after adjudication of the first temporary fill.
 - b. The notice must include the following elements (as per CMS Model Transition Notice via the file and use process or submit a non-model Transition Notice to CMS for marketing review):
 - i. An explanation of the temporary nature of the transition supply an enrollee has received;
 - ii. Instructions for working with the plan sponsor and the enrollee's prescriber satisfy utilization management requirements or to identify appropriate therapeutic alternatives that are on the plan's formulary;
 - iii. An explanation of the enrollee's right to request a formulary exception; and
 - iv. A description of the procedures for requesting a formulary exception.
 - 2. Prior authorization and exception request forms are available to enrollees and physician/prescribers:
 - a. Upon request by mail, fax and email; and

Template Version: 20240531

- b. On Community Care's website. (Attestation #12)
3. This transition policy is available to enrollees through a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Finder link to Community Care's website. (Attestation #14)

Exceptions or Exemptions:

References: Medicare Part D Manual, Chapter 6 – Part D Drugs and Formulary Requirements

Origin Date:	20070501
Review Period: 1, 2 or 3 years	1 year
Owner:	Clinical Pharmacist
Reviewer(s):	Clinical Pharmacist
Policy Approver: See Approver Matrix	Program Officer
Regulatory Approver:	None
Related Regulations:	None
Keywords/Key Concepts:	Medicare, Part D, Transition Plans