

# THE E-BULLETIN

NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Bringing New York State Psychiatrists Together



April 12, 2021

**The Medicaid Managed Care pharmacy benefit transition originally slated for May 1, 2021 has now been extended for approximately two years, until April 1, 2023. This change was included in the 2021-22 enacted New York State Budget, finalized last week.**

**The transition would have required all Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in a Medicaid Managed Care plan to receive pharmacy benefits through the Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicaid Program as of May 1, 2021. Please see our previous E-Bulletin, below, for more background and information.**

## **Medicaid Managed Care Pharmacy Benefits To Be Transferred to FFS Medicaid**

Effective April 1, 2021, all Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care plans, Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs) and HIV-Special Needs Plans (SNPs) will receive their pharmacy benefit through the Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicaid Program (instead of through their Managed Care plan). This transition is an initiative of the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) II intended to simplify and streamline the Medicaid prescription drug benefit.

### **How will this change impact psychiatrists who treat Medicaid beneficiaries?**

In order to prescribe medication for patients with Medicaid Managed Care on or after April 1, 2021, all prescribers must be enrolled with Medicaid, either as a general Medicaid Provider or as an Ordering/Prescribing/Referring/Attending (OPRA) Provider. The OPRA registration is intended for prescribers who do not wish to enroll as a general participating Medicaid provider but need to prescribe medication for patients covered by a Medicaid FFS plan or a Medicaid Managed Care plan. Enrollment as an OPRA provider does not require psychiatrists to enroll as a full participating Medicaid provider, accept Medicaid fee schedules or accept new Medicaid patients. However, if a prescriber is not enrolled as at least an OPRA provider, the Medicaid program will not provide coverage for any prescriptions written for a Medicaid beneficiary.

If you are not already enrolled as an OPRA or FFS Medicaid Provider, you may use the following link to register:

<https://www.emedny.org/info/ProviderEnrollment/index.aspx>

Please be sure to register prior to April 1, 2021 to ensure that prescriptions will continue to be covered by the Medicaid program.

The FFS Preferred Drug Program (PDP) will now apply to all beneficiaries enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care. However, the Department of Health has established a transition period (April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021) during which a one-time fill of non-preferred drugs will be permitted without prior authorization. This is intended to permit time for prescribers to switch to a preferred drug or obtain prior authorization. Previously issued prior authorizations will continue to be honored by the FFS program.

For additional information, please see:

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

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