



PROVIDER BULLETIN

P.O. BOX 15018, ALBANY, NY 12212-5018

(800) 634-1340

BULLETIN NO. 08-01

August 2012

SUBJECT: EPIC Program Changes

Beginning January 1, 2013, many EPIC program benefits will be restored. This bulletin provides information about these changes as well as how they will affect both your EPIC customers and your pharmacy.

ALL MEMBERS MUST BE ENROLLED IN A MEDICARE PART D PLAN IN ORDER TO RECEIVE EPIC BENEFITS

Claims:

- EPIC will provide secondary coverage for EPIC and Medicare Part D covered drugs after any Part D and/or EPIC deductible is met. EPIC will also cover many Medicare Part D excluded drugs, e.g. prescription vitamins, prescription cough and cold preparations.
- Low Income Subsidy (LIS) members will be able to use EPIC during all Medicare Part D benefit stages.
- Any amount paid toward the Medicare Part D deductible cannot be applied to the EPIC deductible.
- The EPIC manufacturers' rebate program is being reinstated.

EPIC Participant Eligibility:

- The Fee Plan will be restored. Members with full Low Income Subsidy (LIS) will have their EPIC fees waived. EPIC co-payments will continue to range from \$3 - \$20 based on the cost of the drug.
- The Deductible Plan will be restored. EPIC members with higher incomes will be responsible for paying their own Medicare Part D premium. However, their EPIC deductible will be lowered by the annual cost of a basic Medicare Part D drug plan.
- EPIC will continue to pay Medicare Part D premiums, up to the amount of a basic plan, for members in the Fee and Deductible plans with income up to \$23,000 (single) or \$29,000 (married).

Attached you will find a copy of the Good News letter mailed to EPIC members. If you have any questions, please contact the EPIC Provider Helpline at (800) 634-1340.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Attention Prescribers

August 2012

Effective **January 1, 2013**, many Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program benefits will be restored. This notice provides information about these changes and how they may affect your patients.

- EPIC eligibility remains the same. You must
 - ✓ be a resident of New York State 65 or older
 - ✓ have annual income up to \$35,000 if single or \$50,000 if married, and
 - ✓ may have a Medicaid Spend down but not receiving full Medicaid benefits.
- **EPIC members must be enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan in order to receive EPIC benefits.**
- EPIC will reinstate its Fee and Deductible Plans.
- EPIC will provide secondary coverage for EPIC and Medicare Part D covered drugs after any Part D and/or EPIC deductible is met.
- EPIC co-payments for covered drugs will continue to be \$3 - \$20, depending on the cost of the drug.
- EPIC will continue to cover many Medicare Part D excluded drugs, such as prescription vitamins and prescription cough and cold preparations.
- EPIC will continue to pay Medicare Part D premiums, up to the amount of a basic plan, for members in the Fee and Deductible plans with income up to \$23,000 (single) or \$29,000 (married).
- EPIC will also lower the EPIC deductible, by the annual cost of a basic Medicare Part D drug plan, for members with higher incomes that are responsible for paying their own Medicare Part D premium.

If your patients are currently receiving drugs that are not on their Part D formularies, please discuss alternative drug therapies that will be covered by their Part D plans in 2013. Prescribing drugs on the Medicare Part D formulary will maximize coverage and reduce your patients' out of pocket expenses.

EPIC has included a copy of the letter sent to members explaining these program changes. If you have patients who have questions about how these changes will affect them, please have them contact the **EPIC Participant Helpline at (800) 332-3742**.

If you have any questions or require further assistance please contact the **EPIC Provider Helpline at (800) 634-1340**.



NEW YORK STATE SENIOR PRESCRIPTION PLAN
P.O. BOX 15018, ALBANY, NY 12212-5018 (800) 332-3742

August 2012

GOOD NEWS FOR EPIC MEMBERS!

On January 1, 2013, the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program will change back to a fee and deductible program and provide you with expanded prescription coverage! All members must be enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan to receive EPIC benefits. There will be no exceptions.

EPIC will provide secondary prescription coverage for EPIC and Medicare Part D covered drugs **after the Part D deductible, if you have one, is met**. EPIC will also cover many Medicare Part D excluded drugs (e.g. prescription vitamins and prescription cough and cold preparations).

You will be enrolled in **either** the EPIC **Fee Plan** or **Deductible Plan**, based on your income.

- **Fee Plan** members will pay an annual fee to EPIC. An EPIC bill will be mailed out in December. Members will pay EPIC co-payments ranging from \$3 - \$20 for prescriptions after the Medicare Part D deductible, if you have one, is met. Those with full Extra Help from Medicare will have their EPIC fees waived.
- **Deductible Plan** members must meet an out-of-pocket deductible before paying EPIC co-payments ranging from \$3 - \$20 for prescriptions. The amount paid toward the Medicare Part D deductible, if you have one, cannot be applied to the EPIC deductible.

EPIC will continue to pay Medicare Part D plan premiums, up to the amount of a basic plan, for all members with annual income below \$23,000 if single or \$29,000 if married. EPIC members with higher incomes will be responsible for paying their own Medicare Part D premium. However, their EPIC deductible will be lowered by the annual cost of a basic Medicare Part D drug plan.

If you have any questions about these changes please contact the EPIC Provider Helpline at (800) 634-1340 Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Call the toll-free EPIC Helpline at (800) 332-3742.