



Department  
of Health

# Transition of Pharmacy Benefit from Managed Care to NYRx

All Stakeholders: Implementation Update

November 17, 2022

# Overview

- **Prior Authorizations**
- **Resources and Updates**
- **Q&A**

November 17, 2022

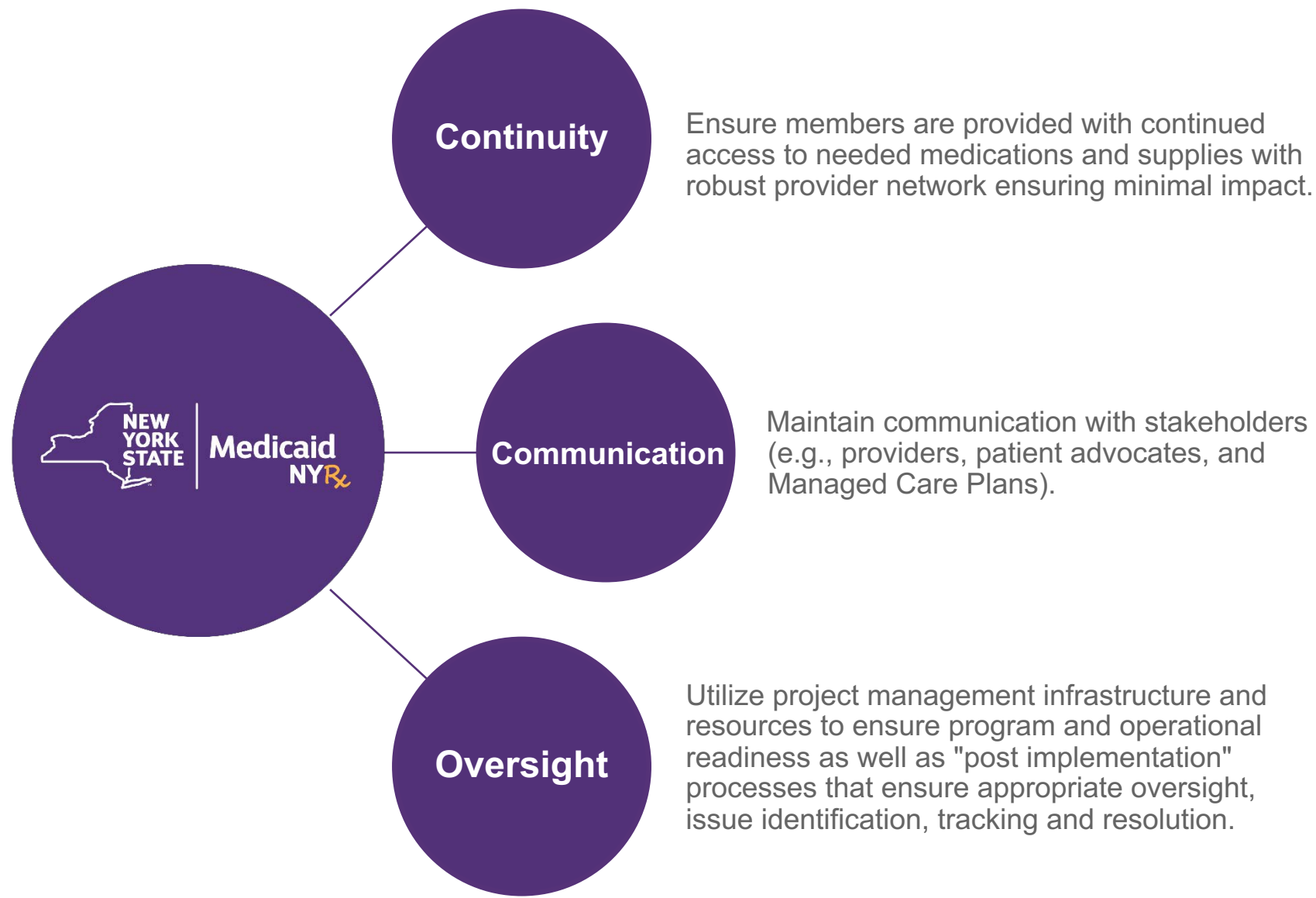


# Transition Overview

- Beginning April 1, 2023, Medicaid members enrolled in mainstream Managed Care (MC) plans, Health and Recovery Plans (HARPs), and HIV-Special Needs (SNPs) will receive their pharmacy benefits through the Medicaid Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program.
- The transition will not apply to members enrolled in Managed Long-Term Care plans (e.g., PACE, MAP, and MLTC), the Essential Plan, or Child Health Plus.
- The transition will not change the scope of benefits (e.g., copayments and covered drugs) of the existing Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit.

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# Transition Guiding Principles



# Prior Authorizations

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# Existing Prior Authorizations (PAs)

**FAQ 098 Will all prior authorization (PA) approvals issued prior to April 1, 2023 be honored after the transition (effective April 1, 2023)?**

Prior Authorizations issued by Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) plans prior to April 1, 2023 (that are active/valid after April 1, 2023) will be honored by the Medicaid NYRx Pharmacy program. This includes clinical PAs that also require authorization under the Medicaid NYRx Pharmacy program.



# Transferring PAs to NYRx

- DOH is working with the Managed Care Plans and Kepro to transfer all approved PAs (that are still active/valid after April 1, 2023) to NYRx, so prescribers won't have to obtain new ones when the benefit transition goes into effect.
- Additionally, PAs will be automatically bypassed when justified based on Managed Care claims history.

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# Preferred Drug List

NYRx covers a comprehensive list of drugs and supplies.

A subset of these drugs are on the [Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#), which contains a full listing of drugs/classes subject to the NYRx Program and additional information on clinical criteria.

Prescribers should review the PDL prior to the benefit transition effective April 1, 2023.

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## NYRx, the New York Medicaid Pharmacy Program

### OVERVIEW OF CONTENTS

#### **Preferred Drug Program (PDP) (Pages 4–64)**

The PDP promotes the use of less expensive, equally effective drugs when medically appropriate through a Preferred Drug List (PDL). All drugs currently covered by NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, remain available under the PDP and the determination of preferred and non-preferred drugs does not prohibit a prescriber from obtaining any of the medications covered under Medicaid.

- Non-preferred drugs in these classes require prior authorization (PA), unless indicated otherwise.
- Preferred drugs that require prior authorization are indicated by footnote.
- Specific Clinical, Frequency/Quantity/Duration, Step Therapy criteria is listed in column at the right.

#### **Clinical Drug Review Program (CDRP) (Page 65)**

The CDRP is aimed at ensuring specific drugs are utilized in a medically appropriate manner. Under the CDRP, certain drugs require prior authorization because there may be specific safety issues, public health concerns, the potential for fraud and abuse, or the potential for significant overuse and misuse.

#### **Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program (Pages 66–79)**

The DUR helps to ensure that prescriptions for outpatient drugs are appropriate, medically necessary, and not likely to result in adverse medical consequences. This program uses professional medical protocols and computer technology and claims processing to assist in the management of data regarding the prescribing and dispensing of prescriptions. Frequency/Quantity/Duration (F/Q/D) Program and Step Therapy parameters are implemented to ensure clinically appropriate and cost-effective use of these drugs and drug classes.

#### **Statewide Medication Assisted Treatment Formulary (Page 80)**

A Single Statewide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) formulary was implemented on October 1, 2022, in accordance with §367-a (7)(e) of Social Services Law. The Single Statewide Medication Assisted Treatment formulary aligns coverage parameters across NYRx and Medicaid Managed Care. Prior authorization will not be required for medications used for the treatment of substance use disorder prescribed according to generally accepted national professional guidelines for the treatment of a substance use disorder.

#### **Brand Less Than Generic (BLTG) Program (Pages 81–82)**

The Brand Less Than Generic Program is a cost containment initiative which promotes the use of certain multi-source brand name drugs when the cost of the brand name drug is less expensive than the generic equivalent. This program is in conformance with State Education Law, which intends that patients receive the lower cost alternative.

[https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx\\_PDP\\_PDL.pdf](https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx_PDP_PDL.pdf)

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## **NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program Preferred Drug List**

### **PREFERRED DRUG LIST – TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>I. ANALGESICS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>II. ANTI-INFECTIVES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>III. CARDIOVASCULAR .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>IV. CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>V. DERMATOLOGIC AGENTS.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>VI. ENDOCRINE AND METABOLIC AGENTS .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>VII. GASTROINTESTINAL .....</b>	<b>43</b>
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<b>XV. RESPIRATORY.....</b>	<b>60</b>

[https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx\\_PDP\\_PDL.pdf](https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx_PDP_PDL.pdf)

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## NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program Preferred Drug List

Preferred Drugs	Non-Preferred Drugs	Prior Authorization/Coverage Parameters
<b>VI. Endocrine and Metabolic Agents</b>		
<b>Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitors <sup>ST</sup></b>		
Glyxambi® Janumet® Janumet® XR Januvia® <sup>DO</sup> Jentadueto® Kazano® <sup>BLTG</sup> Nesina® <sup>BLTG</sup> Tradjenta®	alogliptin alogliptin / metformin alogliptin / pioglitazone Jentadueto® XR Kombiglyze® XR Onglyza® <sup>DO</sup> Oseni® Qtern® Steglujan®	<b>DOSE OPTIMIZATION (DO)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Dose Optimization Chart for affected strengths</li> </ul> <b>STEP THERAPY (ST)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires a trial with metformin with or without insulin prior to DPP-4 Inhibitor therapy unless there is a documented contraindication.</li> </ul>

**Non-preferred drugs remain available and may require prior authorization, unless indicated otherwise.**



[https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx\\_PDP\\_PDL.pdf](https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx_PDP_PDL.pdf)

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# How Prescribers Obtain NYRx PAs

Prescribers may either switch members to a preferred product (on the PDL) or obtain a prior authorization for a non-preferred product.

If a PA is required under NYRx, prescribers should use the following options through Magellan:

	<p>Request by phone: 877-309-9493</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The clinical call center is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.</b></li> <li>• <b>99.9% of PAs are approved on the initial phone call.</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Request by fax: 800-268-2990</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PA forms are available at <a href="https://newyork.fhsc.com/providers/pa_forms.asp">https://newyork.fhsc.com/providers/pa_forms.asp</a>.</li> <li>• Fax requests are responded to within 24 hours.</li> </ul>

For more information, please visit the Magellan website <https://newyork.fhsc.com/>

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# Resources and Updates

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# Now Available: Medicaid Update NYRx Special Edition Part One

- General information about the benefit transition
- NYRx programs that will apply to Medicaid managed care members starting April 1, 2023
- Information for pharmacies, prescribers, and durable medical equipment (DME) providers including enrollment, billing, prior authorizations, and eligibility determination
- Links to important resources, including the pharmacy and DME policy manuals

Medicaid Update, Volume 38, Number 11, October 2022

[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/update/2022/docs/mu\\_no11\\_oct22\\_speced.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2022/docs/mu_no11_oct22_speced.pdf)

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NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health | Medicaid Program

October 2022  
Volume 38 | Number 11

## Medicaid Update SPECIAL EDITION

### PART ONE

**Inside this issue:**

- Medicaid Pharmacy Prescription Drug Benefit Transition
- General Information
- Scope of Benefits
- Transition Strategy
- Information for Pharmacies
- Information for DMEPOS Providers
- Resources
- Questions and Additional Information

**Provider Directory**

**Medicaid Pharmacy Prescription Drug Benefit Transition**

NEW YORK STATE  
Medicaid NYRx  
Department of Health

This publication provides information regarding the New York State (NYS) Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) II initiative to transition the pharmacy benefit from managed care to the NYRx Pharmacy program, formerly known as the NYS Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) Pharmacy program.

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# Spotlight FAQ 124

Section: Provider Impact

## What is the supply quantity for the one-time fill during the transition period?

During the transition period from April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023, members will be provided with a one-time, temporary fill for up to a 30-day supply of a drug that would normally require prior authorization under the NYRx Preferred Drug Program (PDP).

This allows additional time for prescribers to either seek prior authorization or change to a preferred drug, which does not require prior authorization.

Refer to FAQ 051 and FAQ 113.

[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy\\_transition/pharmacy\\_transition\\_faq.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_transition/pharmacy_transition_faq.htm)

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# Spotlight FAQ 115

Section: General

## What is the difference between NYS Medicaid Fee-For-Service and NYRx?

Medicaid Fee-For-Service includes all benefits.

NYRx is the new name for the pharmacy component under the New York State Medicaid Program.

Nothing has changed with the Medicaid pharmacy program except the name.

NYRx is:

- Easily recognizable
- Clearly identifies the Medicaid Pharmacy Program
- Reduces stigma associated with Medicaid

[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy\\_transition/pharmacy\\_transition\\_faq.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_transition/pharmacy_transition_faq.htm)

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# Spotlight FAQ 121

Section: Provider Impact

**If a pharmacy is currently enrolled in the NYS Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) program, does that pharmacy need to enroll in the NYRx pharmacy program?**

Additional enrollment is not required for pharmacies that are currently enrolled in NYS Medicaid FFS.

NYRx is the new name for the pharmacy benefit under the New York State Medicaid Program. Nothing has changed with the Medicaid Pharmacy Program except the name.

Pharmacies must maintain enrollment with NYS Medicaid FFS to continue to service Medicaid members.

[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy\\_transition/pharmacy\\_transition\\_faq.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_transition/pharmacy_transition_faq.htm)

# Key Deliverables and Timeline Updates

Deliverable(s)	Target Date	
Complete Work Plan and Establish State Transition Team	June 2022	✓
Recurring Workgroup Calls with Health Plans about Transition begin	June 2022	✓
Finalize NYS DOH/Managed Care Plan Roles	June 2022	✓
Finalize NYS DOH/Managed Care Plan Scope of Benefits and Transition & Communications Timeline	July 2022	✓
NYS DOH Website Go-Live	July 2022	✓
Recurring All Stakeholders meetings begin	August 2022	✓
Transition Analysis Conducted (e.g., Formulary, DME, OTC Comparisons), Changes Made To Smooth Transition and Transition Strategy Finalized	August 2022	✓

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# Key Deliverables and Timeline Updates

Deliverable(s)	Target Date
Initial Special Edition Medicaid Update Published	November 2022 ✓
Second Special Edition Medicaid Update Published	February 2023
Member Notice of Change and Non-Enrolled Provider Notifications Sent	February 2023
Make Required Changes to Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC) Carrier or Notice	April 2023
Go Live	April 1, 2023

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# Resources



Website: Information regarding the transition of the pharmacy benefit from Managed Care to NYRx will be posted on the DOH website at [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy\\_transition/](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_transition/)



Email: [NYRx@health.ny.gov](mailto:NYRx@health.ny.gov) – Please include **Pharmacy Benefit Transition** in the subject line.



DOH Medicaid Update: [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/update/main.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/main.htm)

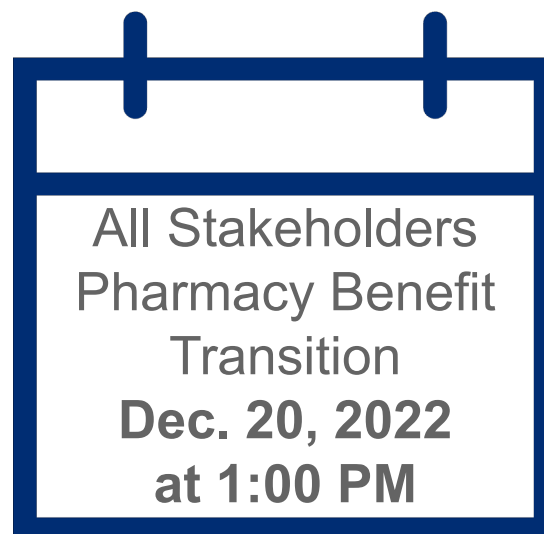


MRT LISTSERV: [https://health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/redesign/listserv.htm](https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/listserv.htm)

# Next All Stakeholders Meeting: Dec. 20, 2022

The Slido form and Webex registration for the December 20 All Stakeholders Meeting will be sent via the [MRT LISTSERV](#) and posted on the [transition website](#).

- December 6 – Announcement about the Slido form and submitting questions ahead of the meeting
- December 13 – Announcement with the Webex registration link for the meeting
- December 20 – At the end of the presentation, the NYRx team will answer questions received in Slido.



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# Questions?

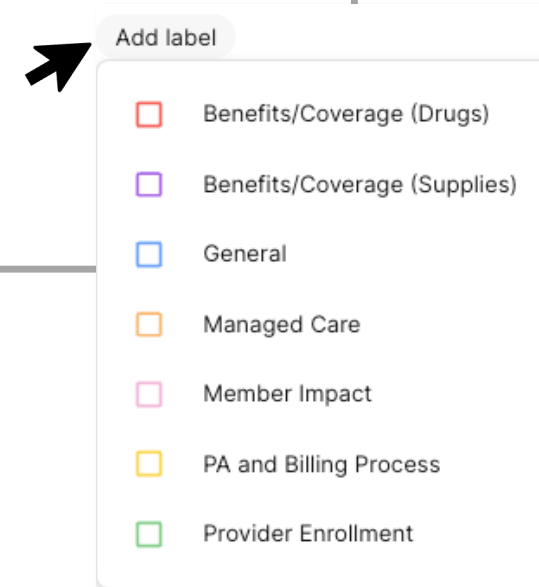


**Please submit your questions in Slido.**

If you cannot access Slido in Webex, please go to <https://www.slido.com>

- Event code: nyrx111722
- Passcode: rxtransition2023

Click “Add label” to categorize your question.  
This is helpful for organization and efficiency.



*Thank you for being patient while we review your questions.*

*Visit the transition website for [Frequently Asked Questions](#).*