

<Date>

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<City, State ZIP+4>

Coverage change for certain antiretroviral drugs

We want to let you know that Medicare recently made a regulation change that could impact how your patients access a drug you’re prescribing.

On September 30, 2024, Medicare issued a National Coverage Determination (NCD) affecting the antiretroviral drugs listed below. When you prescribe these drugs for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to help prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), they’ll now be covered under Medicare Part B — at NO cost to the patient. However, when these drugs are prescribed for HIV treatment, they’ll continue to be covered under Medicare Part D.

The drugs impacted by this change are **Descovy**® (emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide), **Truvada®** (emtricitabine/tenofovir) and **Apretude**® (cabotegravir).

**What does this mean for your patients?**

To ensure your patients get the above drugs at no cost when you prescribe them for PrEP, follow these guidelines:

* If the patient has an **Aetna®** or SilverScript® **Medicare Part D plan (PDP)** only, you must include a PrEP diagnosis code on their prescription. In addition, you should have the patient get their prescription filled at a Part B enrolled pharmacy. This will allow the pharmacy to bill Original Medicare Part B rather than Medicare Part D for this prevention therapy.
* If the patient has an **Aetna** **Medicare Advantage (MA)** or **Aetna Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) plan**, you can help us ensure the prescription is zero cost to the patient for PrEP going forward by completing one of these actions:
  + Include a diagnosis code for PrEP therapy, such as ICD-10 code Z29.81, on the prescription to the pharmacy. This code, in addition to no other antiviral therapies in the patients’ recent claim history, will allow the claim to pay under the member’s Part B drug benefit at zero cost-share.
  + OR -call us (using the appropriate number below) and provide the diagnosis for the coverage determination. Our call center will document the diagnosis and enter the authorization codes to make sure the drug processes under Part B rather than Part D benefits.
  + For **Aetna Medicare Advantage and Allina Health|Aetna Medicare** call us at 1-866-503-0857 (TTY: 711)
  + For **Aetna Assure Premier Plus Medicare Advantage New Jersey Dual Eligible** **Special Needs** call us at: 1-844-362-0934
  + For **Aetna Medicare Advantage Virginia Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans** call us at: 1-855-463-0933

For more information on this NCD change, visit these helpful CMS links:

* **CMS.gov/medicare/coverage/prep**
* **CMS.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/nca.aspx?ncaid=310**

Thank you in advance for helping our members navigate through this regulatory change.

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