



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL)

1. What is the Preferred Drug List (PDL)?

The New Mexico Health Care Authority created the Preferred Drug List in 2026. This is a list of preferred drugs available to *all* Medicaid members. The PDL will help prescribers and members choose safe and effective drugs at the lowest cost. It will ensure consistent drug availability for all members.

2. When does the PDL start?

The PDL will start on July 1, 2026.

3. How will the PDL affect members who currently take a non-preferred drug?

Member with a new prescription for a medication will be subject to the PDL starting July 1, 2026. Members who currently take a non-preferred drug will be granted a transition period until April 2027. During this period, members may continue to fill their non-preferred drug. The dispensing pharmacy will receive a point of sale (POS) educational message indicating the drug is non-preferred, with directions to 1) a switch to a preferred drug, or 2) obtain a prior authorization with medical necessity to receive the non-preferred drug. Prescribers will receive similar written notifications. The message will be educational during this transition period. Once the transition period ends, the member will not be able to fill their non-preferred drug without approved prior authorization.

4. What happens if a member is prescribed a non-preferred drug after July 1, 2026?

Members with no prior claims history for a non-preferred drug (called a “new start”) must switch to a preferred drug or receive prior authorization with medical necessity to receive the non-preferred drug. The dispensing pharmacy will receive a point of sale (POS) rejection and message indicating the drug is non-preferred. The pharmacy and member can work with the prescriber to switch to a preferred drug or submit a prior authorization request. Members who are “new starts” will not have a transition period to a preferred product.

5. How often will the PDL change?

The PDL will be updated regularly. The New Mexico Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T) meets quarterly to review specific drug classes to determine preferred and non-preferred drug status in accordance with the [Bylaws of the Combined Pharmacy &](#)



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[Therapeutics and Drug Utilization Review Committees](#). Many drug classes will have none or very few changes during the year.

6. How will the PDL impact drugs that are exempt from prior authorization or step therapy as required by legislative action (SB 39)?

Drugs used to treat autoimmune disorders, cancer, behavioral health, substance use disorders, and rare diseases or conditions are listed in the PDL and will not require prior authorization or step therapy, per SB 39. An exception to SB 39 is permitted for brand, generic, or biosimilar preference.

7. How does this change affect drugs that are not included on the PDL?

Drugs that are not on the PDL may still be covered. They will be independently managed by fee-for-service and each individual MCO.

8. Will the prior authorization process change?

The prior authorization processes will not change.

9. Will current prior authorizations for non-preferred drugs be honored?

Yes, active prior authorizations for non-preferred drugs will be honored through their expiration date.

10. Where can I see the PDL?

Current and past versions of the PDL are posted at [Preferred Drug List – New Mexico Health Care Authority](#).

11. Where can I submit feedback or questions regarding the PDL?

Please direct questions or feedback about the PDL to MADInfo.HCA@HCA.nm.gov.