

PHARMACY FACTS

Program Updates from Louisiana Medicaid

April 5, 2021

Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Trulicity® will become a preferred medication on the PDL **effective Thursday, April 1, 2021**. This change is due to the discontinuation of the preferred Bydureon® product. There may be delays of up to seven days for programming implementation.

We get a lot of questions about why Medicaid has preferred brand products and the less expensive generic version is non-preferred. For Medicaid to make a drug payable, the drug manufacturer is required by CMS to supply a rebate to Medicaid states. The rebate amount varies depending on the drug designation (brand or generic) and is adjusted due to the rate of price increase (CPI-U). Sometimes the result is that the brand drug's net cost to the state is less than the generic version. LDH limits how many brand drugs are preferred over generics. The rebate program was designed to ensure Medicaid the best price, therefore saving taxpayer dollars.

Naloxone

Opioid abuse is a problem in Louisiana where almost all indicators – addiction to opioid medications, overdose deaths, emergency room admissions and over-prescribing – are evidence of the problem. Naloxone reverses the respiratory depression or unresponsiveness due to an opioid overdose. Prescribing and pharmacy providers are encouraged to prescribe and dispense naloxone to any Medicaid recipient who may be at risk for opioid overdose. The naloxone standing order serves as a prescription and is found here:

<https://ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/Pharmacy/NaloxoneStandingOrder.pdf>

