



**Division of Medical Services
Medicaid Pharmacy Program**

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September 2, 2025

RE: Medications terminated from the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program

Prescribers and pharmacists,

Arkansas Medicaid, as directed by the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP), will only pay for a drug billed with an NDC when the pharmaceutical labeler of that drug is a covered labeler with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). A “covered labeler” is a pharmaceutical manufacturer that has entered into a federal rebate agreement with CMS to provide each state a rebate for products reimbursed by Medicaid Programs.

Some brand-name drugs included in the MDRP have a lower net cost than the generic equivalents due to Federal, State supplemental, and penalty rebates. The state Medicaid pharmacy program monitors high-cost brand-name drugs and checks the Federal rebate file to determine the most economical choice for the state, either:

- The brand name drug due to a higher Federal rebate and lower final net cost to the state (Plan Prefers Brand [PPB]) or
- The generic drug that likely has the 181-day generic exclusivity without other generic competition

Arkansas Medicaid may require the Brand drug to continue to be dispensed by pharmacies until the Brand is no longer advantageous for the State. But once a company or specific drug is no longer included in the MDRP, the drug(s) can no longer be covered by a Medicaid program as the drugs are no longer rebate eligible.

Effective 10/1/2025, multiple manufacturers are being removed from the MDRP. Therefore, multiple medications will no longer be available for Arkansas Medicaid beneficiaries some of which were products labeled Plan Prefers Brand (PPB). The following drugs will no longer be available and may require the beneficiary to change therapy.

- Moviprep powder pack—other preferred bowel preps are available
- Apriso capsule—Brand Pentasa is preferred and generic for Apriso will be moved to preferred status
- Cuprimine capsule—Brand Depen[®] tablet is preferred and contains penicillamine

Other products being removed from the MDRP:

- Noritate cream—other metronidazole topicals available
- Plenvu packets—other bowel preps available
- Relistor tablets/syringe/vial—Movantik is available
- Brand Tiazac and Cardizem CD capsules—generic formulations are available
- Trulance tablet—Lubiprostone and Linzess are available
- Vanos cream and Locoid lipocream—other topical steroids available
- Brand Wellbutrin XL tablet—bupropion XL is available
- Xifaxan tablet—no alternatives
- Diuril suspension—other diuretics are available in suspension and tablets
- Siliq syringe—other biologics for psoriasis are available

For any questions, contact the Prime Therapeutics Help Desk at 800-424-7895.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Neuhofel, Pharm.D.
DMS Assistant Director/Pharmacy Director