

Medical Assistance Pharmacy Benefit Limits

- Adult prescription drug benefits are optional services under Medicaid.
- Adult prescription drug benefits are the most costly optional benefit, in terms of expenditures, under Pennsylvania's Medicaid Program.
- Although the adult prescription drug benefits are optional, and Pennsylvania could eliminate the full scope of the adult prescription drug benefit, the new policy limits prescription drug coverage to six (6) prescriptions per month for categorically needy adult Medicaid recipients 21 years of age and older. The limit will not apply to recipients who are pregnant, or who live in a nursing facility, ICF/MR or ICF/ORC.
- There is currently a six (6) prescription limit for chronically needy adult General Assistance recipients.
- We do recognize that limiting prescription drug benefits could result in serious health complications for some adults, and for that reason we are implementing an exceptions process whereby the Department may approve prescriptions beyond the benefit limit.
- The Department has also identified specific classes of drugs and medical conditions that may be automatically approved at the pharmacy point of sale when the recipient has reached the monthly benefit limit. (Please see attachment with list of drug classes and medical conditions.)
- The ability to automatically approve a drug prescribed for a specific medical condition when the prescription limit has been reached will be dependent on diagnosis and clinical information available to the Department through historical claims data.
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- Even with the adult prescription drug limit, there will be a substantial "safety-net" available through the exceptions process, to minimize health complications and unintended cost shifts to other more costly services.

Number and percentage of Categorically Needy (CN) Adult MA recipients affected:

Eligible CN Adult Recipients in FY 09-10	1,222,634
CN Adult MA Recipients Receiving on average at least one RX per month in FY 09-10	701,410
CN Adult MA Recipients Receiving on average 7 or more RXs per month	75,850
Percentage of CN Adult Recipients receiving 7 or more RXs per month	11%