

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal 25-37

TO: DC Alliance Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd *M.B.*
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

DATE: December 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Important Update Healthcare Alliance: Transition to Generic-Only Prescribing Effective January 1, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform you of an important reminder that will take place on **January 1, 2026, for all Health Care Alliance patients**. Beginning on this date, coverage for prescription medications will continue to be **generic-only formulations** where an FDA-approved generic equivalent is available. From October 1 until December 31, 2025, DHCF is honoring brand name medications to allow for transition to generics.

Please note this only affects residents enrolled in the Health Care Alliance program.

Key Details

- **Effective Date:** January 1, 2026
- **Scope:** All prescription drugs with available FDA-approved generic equivalents.
- **Policy:** Brand-name medications will no longer be reimbursed unless a generic alternative is unavailable, the medication is on the exception list, or a medical necessity exception is approved.
- **Exceptions:** Providers may request prior authorization for brand-name medications when clinically justified. Documentation of medical necessity will be required.

Provider Action Steps

- Review current patient prescriptions and transition to generic equivalents where appropriate.
- Review the [Alliance formulary](#).
- Inform patients of the change to ensure continuity of care and minimize disruption.
- Submit prior authorization requests for brand-name medications only when medically necessary.

DHCF appreciates your continued partnership in ensuring a smooth transition for patients. Your role in communicating these changes and adjusting prescribing practices is critical to maintaining uninterrupted and timely access to high-quality care.

Contact:

If you have questions regarding this policy or the prior authorization process, please contact:

- Pharmacy Service: Prime Therapeutics - 1 (800) 273-4962.
- Physician Administered Drugs: Please fax your request to Department Health Care Finance (DHCF) Pharmacy Team, by completing [719A form](#) along with physician's clinical note – 1 (202) 722-5685 or call at 1 (202) 442-5988 to get further information.

Cc: DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
DC Dental Society
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Washington DC Pharmacy Association