



PROVIDER BULLETIN

No. 19-02

DATE: January 4, 2019

TO: All Providers Participating in Nebraska Medicaid Program

FROM: Matthew A. Van Patton, DHA, Director
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care *MVP*

BY: Jenny Minchow, R.P., Pharm. D, Pharmacy Consultant

RE: Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drugs Coverage Changes

This provider bulletin (PB) is being issued to notify Medicaid providers of upcoming changes to the coverage of certain over-the-counter drugs.

On January 1, 2017, the pharmacy benefit was predominantly carved into Nebraska's Medicaid managed care program, Heritage Health. Certain over-the-counter products are covered through Heritage Health when prescribed by a Nebraska Medicaid enrolled provider.

The Administrative Simplification Committee made a recommendation to increase simplicity and uniformity among the Heritage Health Plans' OTC coverage. A standardized list of covered OTC products has been developed and will be posted on each Heritage Health Plan's website in December 2018.

On January 1, 2019, a standard OTC list will be implemented by each Heritage Health Plan. Medicaid will only cover products whose manufacturers participate in the Federal Medicaid Drug Rebate Program. Products which are supplied by manufacturers who do not participate in the rebate program will no longer be covered. Several chain store brands will fall into this category. Some individual National Drug Code (NDC) numbers which Medicaid previously covered will no longer be covered and will need to be replaced with rebateable NDCs. Check the list posted on your Heritage Health web site to find alternative products if a brand previously utilized is not covered. Listed below are links to the OTC lists:

NTC:

https://www.nebraskatotalcare.com/content/dam/centene/Nebraska/PDFs/Pharmacy/Nebraska-coverable-OTCs-monthly_508.xlsx

UHC:

<https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/commplan/ne/pharmacy/NE-OTC-Pharmacy-Bulletin.pdf>

Wellcare:

<https://www.wellcare.com/en/Nebraska/Providers/Medicaid/Pharmacy>

(Listed under “helpful documents”)

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the appropriate Heritage Health Plan.

Nebraska Total Care

Phone: 1-888-321-2351

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Nebraska

Phone: 1-800-310-6826

WellCare of Nebraska

Phone: 1-855-599-3811

For further information contact Jenny Minchow R.P., Pharm.D at (402) 471-9109, or email at dhhs.MedicaidPharmacyunit@nebraska.gov.

Medicaid Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med_pb_index.aspx. The “Recent Web Updates” page will help you monitor changes to the Medicaid pages.