



September 30, 2024

## Coverage change for certain antiretroviral drugs

We want to let you know that Medicare recently made a regulation change that could impact how your patients access a drug you're prescribing.

On September 30, 2024, Medicare issued a National Coverage Determination (NCD) affecting the antiretroviral drugs listed below. When you prescribe these drugs for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to help prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), they'll now be covered under Medicare Part B — at NO cost to the patient. However, when these drugs are prescribed for HIV treatment, they'll continue to be covered under Medicare Part D.

The drugs impacted by this change are **Descovy**® (emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide), **Truvada**® (emtricitabine/tenofovir) and **Apretude**® (cabotegravir).

### What does this mean for your patients?

To ensure your patients get the above drugs at no cost when you prescribe them for PrEP, follow these guidelines:

- If the patient has an **Aetna Medicare Medicaid Plan (MMP)** or **Aetna Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) plan**, you can help us ensure the prescription is zero cost to the patient for PrEP going forward by completing one of these actions:
  - Include a diagnosis code for PrEP therapy, such as ICD-10 code Z29.81, on the prescription to the pharmacy. This code, in addition to no other antiviral therapies in the patient's recent claim history, will allow the claim to pay under the member's Part B drug benefit at zero cost-share.
  - Fax us at **1-877-270-0148** and provide the diagnosis and the coverage determination. We will document the diagnosis and enter the authorization codes to make sure the drug processes under Part B rather than Part D benefits.

For more information on this NCD change, visit these helpful CMS links:

- **[CMS.gov/medicare/coverage/prep](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/prep)**
- **[CMS.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/nca.aspx?ncid=310](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/nca.aspx?ncid=310)**

Thank you in advance for helping our members navigate through this regulatory change.

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