

Parents: How to Fill a Prescription for a Child on Medicaid or CHIP

What do I do when my doctor gives me a prescription for my child?

BEFORE You Leave the Office, Ask:

Do any of the medications the doctor prescribed for my child need prior approval before the pharmacy will fill them?

- If NO, you should be able to get your child's prescription filled. (For Medicaid, you will have **no** co-pay; for CHIP you **will have** a co-pay.)
- If YES, ask whether your doctor or someone else on the staff has already asked Medicaid for prior approval.

If they have not gotten prior approval yet, ask them to:

- get permission before you leave the office, OR
- telephone you after they have gotten approval, OR
- prescribe a different medication that does not need prior approval.

What do I do if the pharmacy does not give me the prescription?

Ask the pharmacy why it was not filled.

- 🚫 If the pharmacy says prior approval is needed, ask if the pharmacy can call the doctor, or call the doctor yourself.
- 🚫 If the pharmacy is out of the medication, ask them:
 - to call another pharmacy to see if you can get the prescription filled there, OR
 - to tell you how soon they can fill the prescription for you.
- 🚫 If the pharmacy says they can only sell you the medication at full cost, **wait before you pay!**
 - Children's medications should be free in Medicaid, and in CHIP you should only pay the co-pay.
 - If a prescription under Medicaid needs prior approval, ask the doctor to get permission so that you do not have to pay.
 - **Always** call your doctor first before you pay full price for a medication.

What happens if my child needs medications at night and/or on the weekend, and the doctor cannot ask for prior approval?

- The pharmacist can give you a 72-hour (3 day) emergency supply of the medication. It should last your child until the doctor can ask for prior approval.

Will Texas Medicaid or CHIP pay for prescription drugs for a child?

- Children and teens in both Medicaid and CHIP can get most medications that are prescribed by a doctor. There is no monthly limit on the number of prescriptions a doctor can prescribe your child. (Some adults can only get 3 prescriptions per month).
- In Medicaid, even non-prescription (“over the counter”) medications can be free of charge if a doctor gives you a prescription for them.
- There are no co-pays for prescribed medications in children’s Medicaid.
- CHIP does not cover over-the-counter medications. CHIP does require co-payments for children’s prescriptions.

What are the steps needed to fill a child’s prescription?

- There is a list of medications that Medicaid will pay for when your doctor prescribes them. The list is called the Preferred Drug List (PDL). The medications on the list are effective, safe, and affordable.
- If your doctor wants to prescribe a medication that is not on the list, he or she will have to ask for and get permission from Medicaid BEFORE you can fill the prescription. Your doctor or one of the staff will have to convince Medicaid to pay for a medication that is not on the list. This is called getting “prior authorization” or prior approval.
- The pharmacist cannot fill a prescription that is not on the list until your doctor has gotten prior approval. **Only** the doctor or clinic can ask for prior authorization – the pharmacist cannot.
- This is why it is safest to always ask the doctor or clinic before you leave the office whether your child’s prescription needs “prior authorization” or not. If prior approval is needed, ask the office to make sure your prescription is approved as soon as possible. Otherwise, you may be delayed at the pharmacy. Or you can ask your doctor to prescribe another medication that does not need to be approved.
- Right now, CHIP does not require prior approval for prescriptions.

What should I bring with me when I take my child to the doctor’s office and pharmacy?

- ✚ Your child’s Medicaid or CHIP ID card
- ✚ If your child is on CHIP:
 - Money for the prescription co-pay OR
 - if you have already spent your yearly limit, bring your child’s CHIP “\$0 co-pay card” to show you do not have a co-payment.