



## Medicaid Coverage of Benzodiazepines and Barbiturates<sup>1</sup>

As January 1, 2006 approaches, it is important for dual eligibles to know whether state Medicaid agencies will continue to cover certain medications excluded from standard Medicare Part D prescription drug plans. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) authorized states to provide coverage of – and receive federal matching funds for – medications the Medicare Modernization Act excludes.<sup>2</sup> Two of these excluded medications, benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax, Valium, and Ativan) and barbiturates, are particularly important to mental health consumers. Many state Medicaid programs plan to continue covering these drugs, so dual eligibles in these states do not have to try to find a Part D drug plan that covers these medications; they will continue to receive these drugs through Medicaid. The chart below shows state-by-state coverage of benzodiazepines and barbiturates, including special restrictions placed on this coverage. If you have questions, contact NMHA’s Advocacy Resource Center at [shcrinfo@nmha.org](mailto:shcrinfo@nmha.org) or 1-800-969-6642 (option 6).

State	Benzodiazepines	Barbiturates	Notes
AL	Some	Some	Categorically Needy (CN) Only Benzos (including/not limited to): Clonazepam, Temazepam, Diazepam Barbiturates (including/not limited to): phenobarbital, amobarbital
AK	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
AR	All	All	
AZ	All	All	
CA	All	All	Pending CMS approval
CO	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
CT	All	All	
DC	All	All	
DE	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
FL	All	All	
GA	Some	Some	Categorically Needy Only Prior authorization required beyond 3 scripts Barbiturates: Phenobarbital, Mepbaral Benzos: Generic anxiolytics, Librium, Valium, Xanax, Ativan, Serax, Tranxene for adults at 3 prescriptions/year
HI	All	All	
ID	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
IL	Some	Some	No clarification. See <a href="http://www.hfs.illinois.gov">www.hfs.illinois.gov</a>

<sup>1</sup> Information obtained from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website, *Medicaid Outpatient Drug Coverage Excluded Drug Coverage Information By State January 1, 2006*, available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/states/optdrugcov.asp>.

<sup>2</sup> Policy Guidance Regarding Medicaid Coverage of Prescription Drugs Excluded from the New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/states/letters/smd060305.pdf>

IN	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
IA	All	All	
KS	Some	Some	Pending CMS approval Benzos: Clorazepate, temazepam, lorazepam, alprazolam, diazepam. Barbiturates: Phenobarbital
KY	All	All	
LA	All	All	
ME	All	All	
MD	All	All	
MA	All	All	
MI	All	All	
MN	All	All	Pending CMS approval
MS	All	Some	Categorically Needy Only As of 1/1/06 only Phenobarbital and Mephobarbital covered
MO	Some	Some	Categorically Needy Only. No clarification. See <a href="http://dss.missouri.gov/dms/pages/frequpdat.htm">http://dss.missouri.gov/dms/pages/frequpdat.htm</a>
MT	All	All	
NE	All	All	
NV	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
NH	All	All	
NJ	All	All	
NM	Some	None	Categorically Needy Only No barbiturate coverage Benzos: Triazolam, temazepam, diazepam, chlordiazepoxide, alprazolam, lorazepam
NY	All	All	
NC	All	All	
ND	All	All	
OH	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
OK	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
OR	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
PA	All	All	
RI	All	All	
SC	All	All	
SD	All	All	Categorically Needy Only
TN	None	None	<a href="http://www.state.tn.us/tenncare/pharmainfo.html">www.state.tn.us/tenncare/pharmainfo.html</a>
TX	Some	None	No barbiturate coverage Benzos: estazolam, flurazepam, temazepam, triazolam Non-preferred agents require prior authorization: Dalman, Doral, Halcion, Prosom, Restoril
UT	All	All	
VT	All	All	
VA	All	All	
WA	All	All	
WV	All	All	
WI	All	All	
WY	All	All	Categorically Needy Only