



State of New Jersey  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 34 No. 02

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**TO:** Providers of Pharmaceutical Services – **For Action**  
Hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Independent Clinics, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – **For Information Only**

**SUBJECT:** Coverage of Oral Covid-19 Therapies

**EFFECTIVE:** Claims with service dates until December 31, 2024

**BACKGROUND:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Pfizer announced an agreement to extend patient access to commercially available Paxlovid® (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) until December 31, 2024. Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries, aged 12 years and older, will continue to be able to receive Paxlovid® products at no cost until this date.

Lagevrio® (molnupiravir), manufactured by Merck, another oral antiviral drug for use in the treatment of COVID-19, has not received full FDA approval, but remains authorized for use under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Lagevrio® is not authorized for use in patients under 18 years old. Reimbursement for Covid-19 treatment without cost-sharing for Lagevrio® is available until September 30, 2024.

Under the agreement, 340B covered entities should continue to utilize Paxlovid® supply provided directly by Pfizer under the 340B program. Paxlovid® claims provided by 340B covered entities are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.

**ACTION:** Paxlovid® shall be covered by the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program until December 31, 2024. Pharmacies **must not** submit claims to the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program when utilizing the 340B drug inventory for dispensing. Pharmacies must dispense from the Paxlovid® supply provided directly by Pfizer under the 340B program.

Lagevrio® will continue to be covered by the Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program, but prior authorization is required. For additional information regarding MerckHelps, Merck's Patient Assistance Program (PAP) for Lagevrio®, visit <https://merckhelps.com/LAGEVRIO>.

### **Additional Claiming Notes**

- Claims submitted as 340B claims for Paxlovid will be denied with edit code 2296.
- Pharmacies must not label or submit a claim for USG-distributed products as commercially available products.
- Pharmacy providers cannot submit and receive payment from both the PAP and Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare programs for the same member on the same date of service.
- Pharmacies experiencing billing difficulties or requiring prior authorization can contact the Medical Exception Process (MEP) unit at Gainwell Technologies at 1-877-888-2939.

If there are any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Gainwell Technologies Provider Services Unit at 1-800-776-6334.