

2026 Transition Policy for Arkansas Blue Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage

Arkansas Blue Medicare Applicable Plans

- HMO: H6158-001, H6158-003, and H9699-007
- PFFS: H4213-017-001, H4213-017-005, and H4213-017-006
- PDP: S5795-002 and S5795-003

Transition Policy

Arkansas Blue Medicare wants to avoid disruption to your drug therapy in 2026. Under this policy, Arkansas Blue Medicare can offer a one-time temporary supply of a drug you are taking that is not on the Formulary or is restricted in some way. This temporary supply will give you and your prescriber time to change to another covered drug or to file an exception request to have the drug covered.

Eligibility for Our Transition Policy

To be eligible for this one-time supply, you must meet the following two requirements:

1. The drug you have been taking is no longer on our Formulary or the drug you have been taking is now restricted in some way.
2. One of the following situations applies to you:
 - New member to the plan.
 - Current member affected by formulary changes.
 - Member who has been in the plan for more than 90 days and resides in a long-term care (LTC) facility and needs an emergency supply.

Transition Supply at a Retail Pharmacy (Non-LTC Members)

Arkansas Blue Medicare will cover a one-time, 30-day supply of a covered Part D drug during the first 90 days of your enrollment. If the prescription is written for fewer than 30 days, we will allow multiple fills to provide up to a total of 30 days.

Transition Supply for Residents of LTC Facilities

For long-term care residents, Arkansas Blue Medicare will cover a 31-day supply during the first 90 days of your enrollment. If the prescription is written for fewer than 31 days, we will allow multiple fills to provide up to a total of 31 days. After the transition period has ended or the days supply is exhausted, we will allow up to a 31-day emergency supply while an exception request or prior authorization determination is pending.

Transition Supply for Level-of-Care Changes

For members encountering a level-of-care change, Arkansas Blue Medicare will cover a 31-day transition supply within a 90-day window. If the prescription is written for fewer than 31 days, we will allow multiple fills to provide up to a total of 31 days.

Transition Fill Notices

Within three days of receiving your transition supply, a transition policy notification letter explaining the transition supply will be mailed to you. When you receive this letter, talk to your prescriber about changing to another drug that is on the plan's Formulary OR requesting an exception. For detailed information on coverage determinations, appeals, and exceptions, refer to your Evidence of Coverage (EOC).

Transition Fill Cost Share

If you are a low-income subsidy (LIS) beneficiary, your cost share for transition supplies will not exceed your LIS limit. For non-LIS beneficiaries, your cost share will be on the same cost-sharing tier as if a non-formulary exception was applied (generally Tier 4).

Excluded Drugs for Part D Transition Fills

Certain drugs are excluded from this transition fill policy:

- Drugs excluded from Medicare Part D coverage
- Drugs that need a determination if they are covered under Medicare Part B or Part D
- Drugs that have safety concerns (e.g., opioids, benzodiazepine or other pain management medications, drug interactions, etc.)

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