

Transition drug refills

A transition refill, also known as a transition fill, is typically a one-time, 30-day supply of a drug that you were taking:

- Before switching to a different Part D plan (either a stand-alone Part D plan (PDP) or a Medicare Advantage Plan with Part D coverage)
- Or, before your current plan changed its coverage at the start of a new calendar year

Transition refills provide temporary coverage for drugs that are not on your plan's formulary or that have certain coverage restrictions (such as prior authorization or step therapy).

Getting a transition refill

The following situations describe when you can get a transition refill.

1. Your current plan is changing how it covers a Medicare-covered drug you have been taking.

- If your plan is taking your drug off its formulary or adding a coverage restriction for the next calendar year for reasons other than safety, the plan must either:
 - Help you switch to a similar drug that is on your plan's formulary before January 1
 - Help you file an exception request before January 1
 - Or, give you a 30-day transition fill within the first 90 days of the new calendar year along with a notice about the new coverage policy.

2. Your new plan does not cover a Medicare-covered drug you have been taking.

- If a drug you have been taking is not on your new plan's formulary, this plan must give you a 30-day transition refill within the first 90 days of your enrollment. It must also give you a notice explaining that your transition refill is temporary and informing you of your appeal rights.
- If a drug you have been taking is on your new plan's formulary but with a coverage restriction, this plan must give you a 30-day transition refill free from any restriction within the first 90 days of your enrollment. It must also give you a notice explaining that your transition refill is temporary and informing you of your appeal rights.

- In both of those cases, if a drug you have been taking is not on your new plan's formulary, be sure to see whether there is a similar drug covered by your plan (check with your doctor about possible alternatives) and, if not, to file an exception request. (If your request is denied, you have the right to appeal.)

Remember: Transition refills are temporary. Receiving one does not mean your drug will be covered for the rest of the year. **Take action right away.** Ask your provider if it is safe for you to use a different drug on your plan's formulary or file an exception request with your plan.