

For brokers, general producers and full-service producers

Not intended for distribution to groups or members

Market: All MD risk business

Dispensing of Prescription Drugs–Single Dosage Unit

Maryland (HB1558)

Effective October 1, 2018

Beginning October 1, 2018, a pharmacist may provide a single dosage of an original prescription plus two refills, for up to a 90-day supply. For example, if a provider writes a prescription for 30 pills for a 30-day supply with 6 refills, a member may get up to 90 pills at one time (a 90-day supply) and will pay three monthly copays.

There are special rules for contraceptives. Until January 1, 2020 contraceptives cannot exceed a 6-month supply; on and after January 1, 2020, contraceptives cannot exceed a 12-month supply.

A pharmacist may not dispense in a single dose, a quantity exceeding the limit the prescriber has written on the prescription or if the prescriber has indicated that the prescription must be dispensed only as prescribed.

This bill *does not* apply to:

- Schedule II controlled dangerous substances
- first two months of an initial supply of a contraceptive
- first fill of a new prescription
- a change in a current prescription

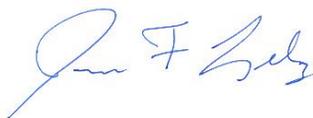
The mandate applies to prescriptions submitted *after* October 1, 2018; it does not apply retroactively. There are no contract changes or benefit changes. The mandate applies at the pharmacy level and *only* when the pharmacist deems it is appropriate for the member.

Effective date

October 1, 2018 for all Maryland risk business.

If you have any questions, please contact your broker sales representative.

Sincerely,



Jim Leleszi
Vice President, Sales
Large Group SBU



Timothy Matthews
Vice-President, Sales
Small-Medium Group SBU