

**Arizona Department of Health Services  
Division of Behavioral Health Services  
PROVIDER MANUAL  
NARBHA Edition**

**Section 3.16** Medication Formularies

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**3.16.1 Introduction**

The Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) maintains two lists of medications, referred to as the [Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#) and the [Non-Title XIX/XXI Formulary](#). Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (T/RBHAs) must use these medication formularies to ensure the availability of safe, cost-effective and efficacious medications, ADHS/DBHS may add or delete medications from the formularies based on factors such as obsolescence, toxicity, and substitution of superior products or newer treatment options.

Medicare eligible behavioral health recipients, including persons who are dually eligible for Medicare (Title XVIII) and Medicaid (Title XIX/XXI), receive Medicare Part D prescription drug benefits through Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) or Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MA-PDs). NARBHA from time to time may contract with willing Medicare Advantage plans but most MA-PDs prefer to contract directly with the NARBHA providers. Prescription drug coverage for Medicare eligible behavioral health recipients enrolled in Part D is based on Part D plans' formularies. There may be an occasion when a behavioral health recipient's prescribed drug is not available through his/her Part D plan's formulary. This is considered a non-covered Part D drug. T/RBHAs and/or behavioral health providers must make attempts to obtain a drug not on a Part D plan's formulary by requesting an exception from the Part D plan.

**3.16.2 References**

The following citations can serve as additional resources for this content area:

- [42 CFR 400.202](#)
- [42 CFR 422.2](#)
- [42 CFR 422.106](#)
- [42 CFR 423.100](#)
- [42 CFR 423.120](#)
- [42 CFR 423.4](#)
- [42 CFR 423.34](#)
- [42 CFR 423.272](#)

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[42 CFR 423.462](#)

[42 CFR 423.464](#)

[42 CFR 423.505](#)

[A.R.S. 32-1901](#)

[R9-21-207](#)

[R9-22-209](#)

[R9-31-209](#)

[AHCCCS/ADHS Contract](#)

[ADHS/RBHA Contracts](#)

[ADHS/IGAs T/RBHA](#)

[ADHS/DBHS Covered Behavioral Health Services Guide](#)

[ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#)

[ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#)

[T/RBHA Medication Formulary](#)

[Section 3.14, Securing Services and Prior Authorization](#)

[Section 3.15, Psychotropic Medications: Prescribing and Monitoring](#)

[Section 3.21, Service Package for Non-Title XIX/XXI Persons determined to have a Serious Mental Illness \(SMI\)](#)

[Medicare Modernization Act Final Guidelines - Formularies](#)

[Part D Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program - Benefits and Costs for People With Medicare](#)

[Prescription Drug Benefit Manual - CMS](#)

### **3.16.3 Scope**

To whom does this apply?

This section is only applicable to behavioral health providers contracted with a Tribal or Regional Behavioral Health Authority (T/RBHA). ADHS/DBHS covers medications for the following:

- Title XIX and Title XXI eligible persons;
- Dual eligible persons who are prescribed medications covered through Medicaid (medications covered through Medicare Part D are billed to Medicare plans);
- Non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have Serious Mental Illness (SMI); and
- Non-Title XIX/XXI persons presenting with a behavioral health crisis in the community.

### **3.16.4 Did you know...?**

- At a minimum, the T/RBHA's formulary for Title XIX/XXI eligible persons must include all medications on the [ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#); however, T/RBHAs may choose to add to the comprehensive formulary, if desired.

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- T/RBHAs must use the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#) for Non-Title XIX/XXI persons when using Non-Title XIX/XXI funds.
- Updated versions of the [ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#) and [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#) are posted on the ADHS/DBHS website. Updated information concerning covered medical testing services is also posted on the ADHS/DBHS website as part of the [ADHS/DBHS Covered Behavioral Health Services Guide](#).
- Each Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) and Medicare Advantage plan (MA-PD or MA-PD/Special Needs Plan) establishes its own formulary. Formularies are based on the [Medicare Modernization Act Final Guidelines - Formularies](#) issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Each Part D plan's formulary can be reviewed through <http://www.medicare.gov/>. Benzodiazepines and barbiturates are excluded under Medicare Part D and will continue to be covered through ADHS/DBHS.

### **3.16.5 Definitions**

[ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#)

[ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#)

[Behavioral Health Medical Practitioner](#)

[Depo-medications](#)

[Dual eligible](#)

[Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan \(MA-PD\)](#)

[Prescription Drug Plan \(PDP\)](#)

[Prior Authorization](#)

[Schizophrenic Spectrum Disorder](#)

[Third Party Liability](#)

[T/RBHA Formulary](#)

### **3.16.6 Objectives**

To provide persons access to safe, cost-effective and efficacious medications.

### **3.16.7 Procedures**

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**3.16.7-A. How are the formularies used to access medications?**

To ensure coverage of medications through the T/RBHA, providers must utilize the T/RBHA Formulary for Title XIX/XXI eligible persons and the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary for Non-Title XIX/XXI persons](#) (See **Section 3.16.7-B** for link).

NARBHA utilizes a pharmacy benefit system, SXC, and a laboratory contract with Sonora-Quest. All covered medications and laboratory studies prescribed by NARBHA-authorized prescribers on or after an eligible member's enrollment date and on or before the member's closure date are paid through the NARBHA pharmacy and laboratory services benefit system.

NARBHA Title XIX/XXI Formulary is at [PM Form 3.16.1](#). NARBHA Non-Title XIX/XXI SMI Medication Formulary is at [PM Form 3.16.2](#). Medication benefits are limited to the available generic forms, except where otherwise identified on the formularies.

Lab Studies

Lab studies which are needed to diagnose, follow and/or treat psychiatric disorders are available through the NARBHA laboratory system, Sonora-Quest. See [PM Form 3.16.3](#).

Pharmacy Edit Notification Requests

NARBHA requires notification by the NARBHA prescriber in order to process pharmacy overrides on behalf of an individual member in the pharmacy benefit system under the following circumstances:

- Brand-name medications on the NARBHA Medications Formulary when the generic form is available.
- Medication refills prior to 30 days when a 30-day supply was initially dispensed and/or when 1/4 of the days remain on the previously filled prescription.
- Prescriptions in excess of a 30-day supply.
- Restricted medications or laboratory services (there are none currently).
- Non-formulary medication requests.

NARBHA enters the pharmacy edits of a Pharmacy Edit Notification Request (See [PM Form 3.16.4](#)) within one business day of receipt of request. Clinical determination of need by the prescriber is sufficient to warrant approval of the Pharmacy Edit Notification.

Entry of a Pharmacy Edit Notification Request is dependent on NARBHA's receipt of the appropriate clinical and administrative forms specific to the medication and laboratory service request.

In some cases for ineligible persons, compassionate dispensing of the medication for a limited period of time is granted pending receipt of the appropriate forms:

- Persons who are in the process of becoming T19/T21 eligible on a case-by-case basis. (See [PM Form 3.16.5](#) Ineligible Child/Adult Pharmacy Enrollment.)
- Eligible persons who are in the process of becoming enrolled may receive medications pending enrollment on a case-by-case basis. (See [PM Form 3.16.6](#) Pre-Enrollment)

# Arizona Department of Health Services

## Division of Behavioral Health Services

### PROVIDER MANUAL

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#### Additions/Deletions to Prescriber Panel

Only medical practitioners registered with NARBHA as being privileged to prescribe medications for NARBHA members are covered under the NARBHA pharmacy benefit plan.

NARBHA providers notify NARBHA about additions or deletions to the NARBHA prescriber panel by submitting [PM Form 3.16.8](#) Permanent Prescriber.

- New Prescriber Education: All new prescribers will receive a packet of information relevant to the clinical care of NARBHA members at the time of addition to the NARBHA Prescriber Panel. This includes policies on coordination of care with primary care physicians, documentation standards, ADHS/DBHS Clinical and Recovery Practice Protocols, and formularies for medications and for laboratory studies. Prescribers are required to submit an attestation that they reviewed the information to NARBHA within the required time frames.
- When prescribers are being deleted from the panel, outstanding valid prescriptions by the prescriber need to be considered when deciding the deletion date.

Temporary privileges for up to five days for prescribers under the NARBHA pharmacy benefit plan are available on a case-by-case basis. (See [PM Form 3.16.7](#) Temporary Prescriber)

#### Non-Formulary Medications

Accessing non-formulary medications for Medicare eligible persons will be contingent on policies set forth by each Part D plan. If a prescription drug is not included on the recipients' Part D plan formulary, the T/RBHA must assist the behavioral health recipient in obtaining the non-covered medication(s).

NARBHA has adapted the CMS Universal Exception Form to assist with required Part D prior authorization procedures. (See [PM Form 3.16.9](#))

Title XIX/XXI eligible persons receiving medication(s) have the right to appeal any decision that affects his/her coverage for medication(s) in accordance with PM Section 5.1, Notice Requirements and Appeal Process for Title XIX and Title XXI Eligible Persons. Non-Title XXI/XXI persons determined SMI have the right to appeal decisions regarding coverage of their medications in accordance with [PM Section 5.5, Notice and Appeal Requirements \(SMI and Non-SMI/Non-Title XIX/XXI\)](#).

A person receiving medication(s) has the right to appeal a T/RBHA Formulary change or any decision that affects his/her coverage for medication(s.)

Contact the NARBHA Member Services at 1-800-640-2123 to appeal a NARBHA Formulary change.

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Behavioral health recipients with third party coverage, such as Medicare and private insurance, will have access to medications on their health plan's formulary through their third party insurer. However, benzodiazepines and barbiturates are excluded under Medicare Part D and will continue to be covered through ADHS/DBHS. If the desired/recommended prescription drug is not included on the health plan's formulary but may be covered by requesting an exception or submitting an appeal, the provider must attempt to obtain an exception for the medication or assist the recipient in submitting an appeal with the health plan. T/RBHAs will cover medications for Non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have SMI when their third party insurer will not grant an exception for a medication that is a medication on the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#). When Non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have SMI, who have Medicare or private insurance, are assessed a co-payment for medications, providers must determine the applicable co-payment for the person in accordance with [Provider Manual Section 3.4, Co-payments](#), and [Provider Manual Section 3.5, Third Party Liability and Coordination of Benefits](#).

**3.16.7-B. Prior authorization**

T/RBHAs must obtain approval in writing from the ADHS/DBHS Chief Medical Officer or designee prior to implementing prior authorization protocols for any medication included on the [ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#), including dosage and dispensing restrictions. T/RBHAs must also obtain approval in writing from the ADHS/DBHS Chief Medical Officer or designee prior to implementing prior authorization protocols for any medication included on the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#). If a T/RBHA or behavioral health provider requires prior authorization for medications, the requirements outlined in [Section 3.14, Securing Services and Prior Authorization](#), [Section 5.1, Notice Requirements and Appeal Process for Title XIX and Title XXI Eligible Persons](#), and [Section 5.5, Notice and Appeal Requirements \(SMI and Non-SMI, Non-TXIX/TXXI\)](#), must be met (see [Section 3.14 Securing Services and Prior Authorization subsection 3.14.7-E](#)).

**Prior authorization criteria of medications prescribed for Non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have SMI**

Non-Title XIX persons determined to have SMI are eligible to receive the medication-only benefit package (see [Section 3.21, Service Package for Non-Title XIX/XXI Persons determined to have a Serious Mental Illness \(SMI\)](#)), which includes coverage of medications listed on the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#). After July 1, 2010, any non-TXIX/XXI enrolled persons determined to have SMI who are prescribed brand name atypical antipsychotic medications which are not included on the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#) must be transitioned to a generic alternative or an alternative funding source, RBHAs must use their established prior authorization processes to receive, review and respond to requests for time-limited coverage for atypical antipsychotic medication(s) including:

- Documentation by the prescribing medical professional of the clinical/safety concerns related to abrupt discontinuation of the medication;

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- Documentation by the prescribing medical professional of a clear plan for how the member will be transitioned to an alternative generic antipsychotic medication(s) or alternative funding source;
- Issuance of required notices in the event of denying coverage of this limited benefit in accordance with [Section 5.5, Notice and Appeal Requirements \(SMI and Non-SMI, Non-TXIX/TXXI\)](#); and
- Approval of such requests by the RBHA in 30 day increments, not to exceed 90 days of coverage within a 12 month period per individual per medication.

RBHAs must also utilize their established prior authorization processes for Non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined SMI who are prescribed Risperidal Consta, consistent with the following requirements:

- The member must have a diagnosis of schizophrenia or a schizophrenia spectrum disorder.
- The member must be at least 18 years old.
- The member must be able to tolerate at least 2mg/day of oral risperidone.
- The member must have a documented history of poor adherence to oral risperidone and documentation that patient education and other efforts to improve adherence have been tried (e.g. pill boxes).
- The prescribing medical professional must taper and discontinue oral risperidone within 60 days after Risperidal Consta is initiated.
- Target symptoms must be clearly documented and tracked over time in the psychiatric progress notes and assessments.

Prior authorization of Risperidal Consta may be approved for up to one year, but requires re-authorization annually and re-authorization must consider clinical indication and documented benefit. Authorization criteria for Risperidal Consta must minimally be approved for no less than 30 days.

If a T/RBHA wishes to establish any additional prior authorization criteria for medications on the [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#), they must be for the purposes of ensuring clinical appropriateness of prescribing practices (e.g. intra-class polypharmacy and dosages above the FDA recommendation). All prior authorization policies and criteria must be approved by ADHS/DBHS in advance of implementation.

- NARBHA has no medications which require prior authorization.

**3.16.7-C. How can the Behavioral Health Providers have input?**

Behavioral health providers can offer suggestions for adding or deleting medications to the [ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#), [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Formulary](#) or their contracted T/RBHA's Medication Formulary.

Changes to the ADHS/DBHS Medication Formularies

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To propose additions or deletions to the [ADHS/DBHS Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#) or [ADHS/DBHS Non-Title XIX/XXI Medication Formulary](#), a behavioral health medical practitioner shall submit a written request to the T/RBHA Chief Medical Officer or designee:

Chief Medical Officer  
Teresa Bertsch, MD  
Northern Arizona Behavioral Health Authority  
1300 South Yale Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Additions:**

Requests for additions must include the following information:

Medication requested (trade name and generic name, if applicable);

- Dosage forms, strengths and corresponding costs of the medication requested;
- Average daily dosage;
- Indications for use (including pharmacological effects, therapeutic uses of the medication and target symptoms);
- Advantages of the medication (including any relevant research findings if available);
- Adverse effects reported with the medication;
- Specific monitoring required; and
- The drugs on the current formulary that this medication could replace.

**Deletions:**

A detailed summary of the reason for requesting the deletion.

The T/RBHA Chief Medical Officer or designee will present requests, as determined appropriate, to the ADHS/DBHS Chief Medical Officer or designee for a final determination.

Changes to the RBHA Medication Formulary

NARBHA behavioral health medical practitioners may request changes to the formulary by submitting the same information listed above to the NARBHA Medical Director.

Requests for changes to the NARBHA Formulary are reviewed by the NARBHA Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.