

Early Refill
Prior Authorization Criteria

Medicaid provides up to a 31-day supply of medication to Medicaid beneficiaries. Effective February 10, 2003, Medicaid will not pay for a prescription until 85% of the day's supply of any Schedule III narcotic drug and 75% of the day's supply of all other drugs have elapsed, as indicated on the prescription.

By law, Schedule II narcotics cannot be refilled; therefore, Medicaid will not pay for a prescription refill for any Schedule II narcotic. Nor will Medicaid pay for a new prescription until 85% of the day's supply has elapsed.

Prior authorization criteria for Early Refill

Medicaid may permit an early refill of an original claim when:

- Billed by the same pharmacy
- The beneficiary's life is at risk; when an acute clinical condition requires extra medication to stop or mitigate further morbidity
- When the prescriber increases the dosing frequency or increases the number of units per dose
- The prescriber must document the change in dosage or frequency by writing or phoning in a new prescription

Medicaid will not authorize an early refill for medications used for palliative treatment or when the beneficiary has displayed gross negligence, or has a history of early refill requests.