

# Changes in TennCare Medicaid starting August 1, 2005

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This MCO handbook tells you the services TennCare covers **through July 31, 2005.**

## Starting August 1, 2005:

1. TennCare is changing what we pay for.
  2. AND, if you're age 21 or older, you **may** have to pay part of the cost of your medicine. These are your "co-pays." To find out how these changes will affect you, **KEEP READING.** If you **have questions** or **need help**:
    - Call **<MCO Phone>**.
    - OR, see the "Do You Need Special Help?" page with this letter. It tells you where to call.
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Are you **age 21 or older?**

Starting August 1, 2005 (until your TennCare ends):

**TennCare will NOT cover** the services below anymore.

- **Medicine you can buy without a prescription ("over the counter")**—even if you have a prescription for it. (BUT, we'll pay for prenatal vitamins your doctor prescribes.)
  - **Dental care** of *any* kind.
  - **Sitter services**—care given by a nurse who doesn't work for the hospital you're in.
  - **Convalescent care**—care while you get over an illness or operation. It comes after you leave the hospital but before you go home. It's usually done in a nursing home.
  - **Payments to "hold" your bed in the nursing home** if you go home to visit, to the hospital, or leave for any reason.
  - **Methadone clinic services** to get or stay off drugs.  
(This is also called methadone detox or maintenance services.)
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Starting August 1, 2005 (until your TennCare ends):

There **may** also be **changes in** the **prescription drugs and refills** that TennCare covers.

- Are you **under age 21 or getting long term care** that TennCare pays for, like care in a:
  - Nursing home, OR
  - Developmental center for persons with mental retardation (ICF-MR), OR
  - Home and community based services (HCBS) waiver program?

Then, TennCare Medicaid will pay for **all medically necessary prescriptions and refills.** AND, you **don't** have to pay part of the cost of your medicine. (You won't have "co-pays.")

- What if you're **age 21 or older and DON'T get long-term care** that TennCare pays for? Then, it depends on **what kind of Medicaid you have. Not sure?** Then, call the Family Assistance Service Center right away at **1-866-311-4287**. It's a free call.
  - Do you have **"Medically Needy"** or **"spend down" Medicaid?** You may have used medical bills to spend down your income to qualify. Soon, TennCare isn't going to cover those groups anymore (unless you're under age 21 or pregnant).

**Starting August 1, 2005**, until your TennCare ends:  
**TennCare won't pay for any prescription drugs** or refills.

- Are you **age 21 or older and** have a **different kind of Medicaid?**  
(You're in one of the groups that TennCare Medicaid will still cover.  
They're listed on the <color> page with this letter.)

Then, the **2 changes** below are **ONLY for you**.

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### **1. Starting August 1, 2005:**

TennCare Medicaid will **only** pay for **5 prescriptions or refills each month**.

**AND, only 2** can be **brand name drugs**. That means that **at least 3 must be generic**.  
A **generic** is like a copy of a brand name drug. It works the same, but usually costs less.

We'll start counting on the first day of each month. There is a list of drugs that **won't** count against your limit. After you've gotten 5 prescriptions or 2 brand name drugs in 1 month, you can still get drugs on that list. The list may change. **BUT**, TennCare and your drug store will make sure that drugs on the most current list don't count against your limit. Need to find out if medicine you take is on that list? You may want to ask your doctor or drug store.

If you want to see the most current list, you can use the internet. Go to the TennCare website at <http://www.tennessee.gov/tenncare/pdlinf.htm>. Then, click on "**Pharmacy Short List**." OR, call the Family Assistance Service Center at **1-866-311-4287**. Ask them to mail you a copy. It's called the "Pharmacy Short List (TennCare's list of drugs that **won't** count against your prescription limit)."

### **Do you take more than 5 prescriptions OR 2 brand name drugs each month?**

Ask your doctor to prescribe generic drugs. Ask if you need all the medicine you're taking. Ask your drug store to help you pick the drugs that cost most. Each month, get those filled **first** so TennCare will pay for them. Unless they're on TennCare's list of drugs that won't count against your limit, **you must pay** for:

- Prescriptions over your limit of 5 each month, **and**
- Brand name drugs over your limit of 2 each month.

They will **not** be covered by TennCare.

### **2. AND, starting August 1, 2005:**

**You must pay \$3 for each brand name drug**. But, you **won't** pay at all for:

- Generic drugs
- Birth control
- Medicine you get in hospice care—You must tell the drug store you're getting hospice care.
- Medicine you get in a medical emergency
- Medicine you get for pregnancy problems—You must tell the drug store you're pregnant.

There's **no limit** on the **total** amount you could pay in **co-pays** each year.