

72-Hour Emergency Supply Available for Pharmacy Prior Authorization Drugs

Pharmacies may dispense a **72-hour emergency supply** for medications requiring prior authorization when a delay in therapy could harm the patient.

Federal law requires that this emergency supply be available to Medicaid beneficiaries for drugs requiring prior authorization (Social Security Act, Section 1927, [42 U.S.C. 1396r-8\(d\)\(5\)\(B\)](#)).

Providing this emergency supply helps ensure continued access to medically necessary medications.

The system will bypass the prior authorization requirement when an emergency supply is indicated.

Use Level of Service Code “3” in the NCPDP field 418-DI to indicate the transaction is an emergency fill.

Note: Emergency supply claims will be processed by Prime in accordance with NC Medicaid pharmacy reimbursement policy, including applicable dispensing fees. Copayments will apply.