



Maine Department of Human Services

## Preferred Drug List (PDL) Business Rules

### \*\*\*PDL Implementation Schedule Clarification\*\*\*

The PDL goes into effect on July 1, 2003 for many drugs. However, in an effort to moderate the process, the PDL will only initially affect new prescriptions written after July 1. **There will be a three-month grace period, during which refills of many non-preferred drugs already on file at the pharmacy will be honored without prior authorization.** This will not apply to either existing PA restrictions or preferred generic versus non-preferred brands or vice-versa. In the "Start Date" column, the PDL indicates the categories for which the grace period (new prescriptions and refill implementation dates) applies.

### Step Care

We are dealing with a more extended spectrum of preferred/non-preferred drug products. Some preferred products are more favored than others. Likewise, some non-preferred products are more favored than others. Thus, we have included a step order to distinguish these preferences.

### Start Date

The start date indicates when the particular category of drug products is active on the PDL. Individual products with unique start dates are indicated. It also indicates the PDL implementation grace period (dates in which new prescriptions and refills are affected).

### Drug Names

This list is a general view of the detailed drug list. We mention drug name and, in most cases, include the various formulations—exceptions will be listed. If you have questions, please call our pharmacy/provider PA help desk (1-888-445-0497).

Eventually there will be a version of the PDL that includes the combined restrictions (old and new PA's, dosage/strength, and quantity limits). The attached list includes the new drug products to be implemented. The upcoming version will show all drug products on one list, which will be available on the internet at [www.ghsinc.com](http://www.ghsinc.com).

### General Business Rules

*Preferred drugs without step order numbers:*

- These drugs do not need to be used in any particular order and do not require a prior authorization (PA).

