



**Division of Medical Services
Medicaid Pharmacy Program**

P.O. Box 1437, Slot S415, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
P: 501.683.4120 F: 800-424-5851

June 19, 2023

RE: PDL updates for Vimpat® solution (lacosamide)

Prescribers and pharmacists,

After a brand name drug's patent has expired there may be a company producing a generic drug that meets the FDA's criteria for the "181-day generic drug exclusivity", which means it is protected from competition from other generic versions of the same drug product for approximately 181 days. After the expiration of the 181-day exclusivity period, other generic companies may be poised to enter the market and as more generic drugs are available, the price begins to fall.

The state Medicaid pharmacy program staff will monitor these high cost brand-name drugs and check the Federal rebate file to determine the most economical choice for the state, either:

- The brand name drug due to a higher Federal rebate and lower final net cost to the state or
- The generic drug that likely has the 181-day generic exclusivity without other generic competition

When there is sufficient supply of the generic drugs and the price of the generics has fallen to less than the final net cost of the brand name drug, the generic may be the most cost-effective choice for the state. At that time, the Medicaid staff may place a State Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) on both the brand and the generic drugs for that specific drug/strength/dosage form. Until that occurs, Arkansas Medicaid will require the Brand drug to continue to

be dispensed by pharmacies. Please note clinical criteria and claim edits will still apply. Pharmacies will receive a 30-day notice prior to Arkansas Medicaid applying a MAC on the brand and generic drugs related to State Supported Brand Medications.

Effective July 1, 2023, the following will be updated on the PDL.

- Lacosamide solution (generic for Vimpat® solution) will be added as a preferred option on the PDL.

For any questions, contact the Magellan Help Desk at 800-424-7895.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Neuhofer, Pharm.D.
DMS Assistant Director/Pharmacy Director