

***Lexapro*[®] Copay Change and
Formulary Coverage Review for New *Lexapro*[®] and *Luvox CR*[®] Users
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. Why is the copay for *Lexapro*[®] now \$50?

The State Health Plan made this formulary management decision because there are several generic alternatives available for *Lexapro*[®] that are more cost effective to the Plan and members. This is part of the State Health Plan's efforts to keep the cost of premiums affordable, while offering quality and choice.

2. How much longer will I be able to fill my *Lexapro*[®] prescription at the preferred tier with a \$30 copay?

On October 1, 2008, prescriptions for *Lexapro*[®] will be filled at the non-preferred \$50 copay level.

3. If I obtain my *Lexapro*[®] prescription through *Medco by Mail* for a 3-month supply prior to October 1, 2008 – but which extends past that date – will I be charged a \$30 copay or a \$50 copay?

If you order a prescription before October 1, 2008 you will be charged a \$30 copay for a 3-month supply of your medication, even if the supply extends beyond October 1, 2008.

4. Is there a generic option available with a lower copayment available?

Yes, there are many generic antidepressant alternatives to *Lexapro*[®]. The following generic alternatives are available:

- bupropion (generic for *Wellbutrin*[®])
- bupropion SR (generic for *Wellbutrin XL*[®])
- citalopram (generic for *Celexa*[®])
- fluoxetine (generic for *Prozac*[®])
- luvoxamine (generic for *Luvox*[®])
- paroxetine (generic for *Paxil*[®])
- paroxetine CR (generic for *Paxil CR*[®])
- sertraline (generic for *Zoloft*[®])

Generic drugs are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and are equivalent to their brand name counterparts in quality, strength, purity and dosage. They also contain the same active ingredients. Using one of the generic alternatives to *Lexapro*[®] could save you up to \$480.00 per year. Again, please speak to your provider to see if one of the generic alternatives may be an option for you.

5. Is there another brand name antidepressant medication at the \$30 copay that I could use in place of *Lexapro*[®]?

Yes, *Cymbalta*[®], another antidepressant medication used to treat similar conditions as *Lexapro*[®], is available as a brand name preferred medication, with a \$30 copay for up to a 34-day supply. Remember to ask your provider if this may be an option for you.

6. What if I cannot take one of the generic alternatives to *Lexapro*[®]?

If you cannot take one of the generic alternatives, then you will be responsible for the \$50 copay.

7. I have a new prescription for *Lexapro*[®] or *Luvox CR*[®]. Why is the prescription coverage denied?

All new users older than 18 must have tried without success – or experienced intolerance to – two different generic antidepressant medications prior to the approval of coverage for *Lexapro* or *Luvox CR* at a \$50 copay. This program is to encourage the use of generics first, whenever possible.

8. How do I request a coverage review?

If your provider feels that you should take *Lexapro*[®] or **Luvox CR**, he or she may request a coverage review by calling Medco toll free at 1-800-417-1764 between 8:00AM and 9:00PM, Monday through Friday. Unless approval is obtained, you will be responsible for the full cost of the medication.

9. How long is the approval valid?

An approval for *Lexapro* or *Luvox CR* is valid for the lifetime of the request.

10. What if my provider has prescribed *Lexapro* for another diagnosis besides depression?

During the coverage review, if it is determined that *Lexapro* was prescribed for a condition other than depression; the review would be approved for a lifetime. The requirement to try two generics before the approval of *Lexapro* only applies if *Lexapro* is prescribed for depression.