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August 2008

<First Name> <Last Name>
<Address> <Address>
<City>, <State> <Zip>
Barcode

**Important news about your
prescription drug benefit**

Dear <First Name> <Last Name>:

The State Health Plan *Preferred Drug List* is being updated, with changes effective October 1, 2008. ***Lexapro*® will no longer be covered as a preferred medication. *Lexapro* will now be covered as a nonpreferred medication, with a copay of \$50.** If you refill your prescription on or after October 1, 2008, you will be subject to the new \$50 copay.

Lexapro is being moved to the nonpreferred tier of medications because there are now available several generic alternative treatment options. You can save money by using generic drugs instead of brand name drugs. **The copay for generic medications is only \$10 with your prescription drug benefit. We encourage you to ask your provider whether one of the State Health Plan-preferred alternatives to *Lexapro* may be right for you.** For your convenience, a list of State Health Plan-preferred generic or brand name alternatives to *Lexapro* is included on the back of this letter. As always, your doctor makes the ultimate decision about which medication is best for you.

You may continue taking *Lexapro* after October 1, 2008. Please note that it will be subject to a \$50 copay for the standard 34-day supply. You will pay \$10 for alternatives to *Lexapro* that are generic and \$30 for State Health Plan-preferred brand name alternatives to *Lexapro*.

For more information, please visit **www.medco.com** and click on "Drug information" in the "Prescriptions & benefits" section. If you are a first-time visitor to **www.medco.com**, take a moment to register. (Be sure to have your member ID number and a recent retail prescription number available.) You may also call the toll-free Member Services number 1-800-336-5933. You may review the *Preferred Drug List* by visiting the State Health Plan's Web site at **www.shpnc.org** under the pharmacy heading "Preferred Drug List."

Sincerely,

North Carolina State Health Plan Pharmacy Services

P.S. Please take this letter with you the next time you visit your health care provider. If your provider prescribes *Lexapro*, ask whether a generic or State Health Plan-preferred brand name medication would be right for you.

| Medication removed from the preferred drug list | Plan-preferred possible alternatives to <i>Lexapro</i> |
|---|---|
| <i>Lexapro</i> | Generic Medications (\$10 Copay) |
| | bupropion (generic for <i>Wellbutrin</i> [®]) |
| | bupropion SR (generic for <i>Wellbutrin XL</i> [®]) |
| | citalopram (generic for <i>Celexa</i> [®]) |
| | fluoxetine (generic for <i>Prozac</i> [®]) |
| | luvoxamine (generic for <i>Luvox</i> [®]) |
| | paroxetine (generic for <i>Paxil</i> [®]) |
| | paroxetine CR (generic for <i>Paxil CR</i> [®]) |
| | sertraline (generic for <i>Zoloft</i> [®]) |
| | Brand Name Medications (\$30 Copay) |
| | Cymbalta [®] (Eli Lilly) |

Medco manages your prescription drug benefit for your health plan.