



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
BUREAU OF TENNCARE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION  
310 GREAT CIRCLE ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**Thank you for your participation in the TennCare program and your commitment to assist your patients as we implement the reforms necessary to bring program costs in line with available funding.**

With a number of changes that will directly impact providers being implemented for the *TennCare Program*, this notice is being sent as a reminder of those changes. We encourage you to read this notice thoroughly and contact the First Health Call Center should you have additional questions.

**Pharmacy Coverage Exclusion and Benzodiazepine & Barbiturate Tapering Prescription:**

As has been communicated previously to both providers and enrollees, effective January 1, 2006, the Bureau of TennCare will follow the Medicare policy decision and discontinue coverage of the benzodiazepine and barbiturate classes of for all adult recipients, including adult dual eligible recipients.

To help enrollees who need to be tapered off their medications, the State is offering to reimburse pharmacies for a one time prescription that would encompass the tapering schedule. To obtain this prescription the prescriber must call the First Health Clinical Call Center at 1-866-434-5524 to obtain a prior authorization before the pharmacy submits the claim. The patient must have been on therapy for greater than six months and also currently on therapy. In addition, the prescriber must attest that the supply is specifically for tapering purposes.

This one time prescription can be filled using the patients current TennCare ID and standard TennCare pharmacy process. However, these prescriptions are being paid for by the State and are not subject to TennCare rules such as prescription limits and days supply. The dispensing pharmacy will submit the claim to First Health using the correct day supply that will be used by the enrollee during the tapering period. Up to a two month supply will be allowed for this prescription.

The one time tapering supply can be obtained up to January 31, 2006. **Please note the tapering prescription will need to cover the supply for the entire tapering schedule provided by the prescriber.**

**TennCare List Serve for Notifications regarding the TennCare program:**

TennCare has created a service where any providers who would like to receive notifications regarding the TennCare program can enter their contact information to receive notifications electronically. This service is free to join and providers interested in signing up can follow the links at:

<http://www.tn.gov/tenncare/>

Please visit the TennCare/First Health website regularly ([www.firsthealth.com](http://www.firsthealth.com)) to stay up-to-date on changes to the TennCare program.

**Please forward or copy the information in this notice to all providers who may be affected by these processing changes.**