



Update on 12 Month Dispensing for Birth Control in Nevada

Last year, Nevada passed a law authorizing health care providers to prescribe up to 12 months of birth control at one time. That law went into effect last month. And now, we want to encourage you to take advantage of it!

We checked with DHCFP and the Division of Insurance to be sure Medicaid and private insurance are on track in implementing coverage for 12 month dispensing. Here's what we found:

Private insurance: The Division of Insurance has provided guidance for fully insured health benefit plans (which applies to 21% of the state's population). The requirements of the bill do not apply to self-insured plans. The guidance to insurers can be found here:

http://doi.nv.gov/Healthcare-Reform/Individuals-Families/Preventive-Care/#AB_249

Medicaid: DHCFP submitted a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) in October requesting authority to dispense a 12-month supply in accordance with AB 249 and SB 233. Federal approval was needed before the Nevada Medicaid office could implement this change. On February 2, 2018, the DHCFP let us know that CMS approved the State Plan Amendment for 12 month dispensing. They are currently in the process of issuing billing guidance and policy updates.

Nevada Medicaid notes, "If recipients are experiencing issues with the pharmacy and receiving a prescription they can contact the Medicaid District Office or their Managed Care Plan (number on the back of their Medicaid card)."

Board of Pharmacy: The state Board of Pharmacy just approved regulations to allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to dispense up to a year's worth of birth control. This change gives APRNs the same dispensing authority as Physician's Assistants.

For your info:

The law set out a schedule for coverage of extended birth control dispensing. Each health care provider decides what's best for the patient. The prescriptions can be written as follows:

- The first dispense can be for up to 3 months or the rest of the plan year, whichever is less.
- The second dispense, if the patient is getting the same drug and is on the same insurance policy as before, can be for 9 months or the remainder of the plan year, whichever is less.
- The prescriber can write a prescription for fewer months, if that is in the best interest of the patient.

12 month dispensing is good for women's health:

Providing 12 month dispensing for contraceptives is recommended by federal health experts at the Centers Disease Control. In 2017, leading physician groups and health groups supported SB233 and AB249 including: Nevada State Medical Association, Nevada Advocates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates, rural health centers, Nevada Primary Care Association, NARAL Nevada, the Nevada Chapter of ACOG, and the Nevada Public Health Association.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation:

Providing women with a longer lasting supply of pill packs may lead to more consistent contraceptive use.¹ Women who receive a one-year supply have been found to be 30% less likely to have an unintended pregnancy compared to women receiving a one to three month supply.²

Laws requiring coverage for 12 months of oral contraceptives have been enacted in [California](#), [Colorado](#), [D.C.](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Maine](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York](#), [Oregon](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#), and [Washington](#).

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¹ Steenland MW, Rodriguez MI, Marchbanks PA, & Curtis KM. [How does the number of oral contraceptive pill packs dispensed or prescribed affect continuation and other measures of consistent and correct use? A systematic review](#). *Contraception*; 87(5):605-610. May 2013.

² Foster DG, Hulett D, Bradsberry M, Darney P, & Policar M. [Number of Oral Contraceptive Pill Packages Dispensed and Subsequent Unintended Pregnancies](#). *Obstetrics and Gynecology*; 117(3):566-572. March 2011.