

**Subject** Inclusion of nonopioid drugs on MA preferred drug list

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## Summary

As part of administering Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare, the commissioner of human services is required to maintain a preferred drug list (PDL) for the programs. Reimbursement for drugs that are not on the PDL may be subject to prior authorization.

H.F. 1807 provides that, with respect to administering the PDL, the commissioner must not disadvantage or discourage coverage of a nonopioid drug approved by the FDA for treatment or management of pain as compared to an opioid or narcotic drug. Specifically, the commissioner may not designate a nonopioid drug as nonpreferred if any opioid or narcotic drug is on the PDL, and the commissioner may not establish more extensive utilization management controls (e.g., prior authorization or step therapy) for a nonopioid drug than an opioid or narcotic drug. This requirement applies to a nonopioid drug as soon as it is approved by the FDA, regardless of whether the commissioner or the Drug Formulary Committee has reviewed the drug for inclusion on the PDL.