



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** EPH STAR CHIP Providers

**FROM:** El Paso Health

**DATE:** 05/30/2023

**RE:** PDL Status Change Smoking Cessation Drug Class Effective 05/16/2023

Drug shortage for the brand name Chantix in the Smoking Cessation drug class due to a manufacturing delay of this product by Pfizer.

In response to the shortage of preferred brand name product Chantix, HHSC removed the non-preferred status from the generic product, varenicline, on the preferred drug list (PDL). The preferred status of the brand name Chantix products (NDC 00069-0468-56, 00069-0471- 03, 00069-0469-56) will not change to allow for any existing stock available to be utilized. HHSC removed the non-preferred status for the following generic drugs, effective May 16, 2023, and HHSC will reflect these changes in the daily formulary file for MCOs.

### **NDC Generic Drug Name**

- 49884015576 Varenicline 0.5 mg tablet
- 49884015676 Varenicline 1 mg tablet
- 49884094499 Varenicline starting month box

These changes will allow providers to prescribe the generic varenicline without requiring a PDL prior authorization and continue accessing necessary medication for clients. MCOs must make this change by Friday, May 19.

If you have any questions regarding this communication please contact our Provider Relations team at 915-532-3778 or email us at [ProviderRelationsDG@elpasohealth.com](mailto:ProviderRelationsDG@elpasohealth.com)