



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

1570 Grant Street
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Prescriber Tool Pre-Alternative Payment Model (APM) Provider Toolkit

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Purpose

This toolkit is designed to help guide practices through steps to participate in the Pre-APM phase of the Prescriber Tool APM. If you have additional questions, please contact your RAE for assistance.

Background

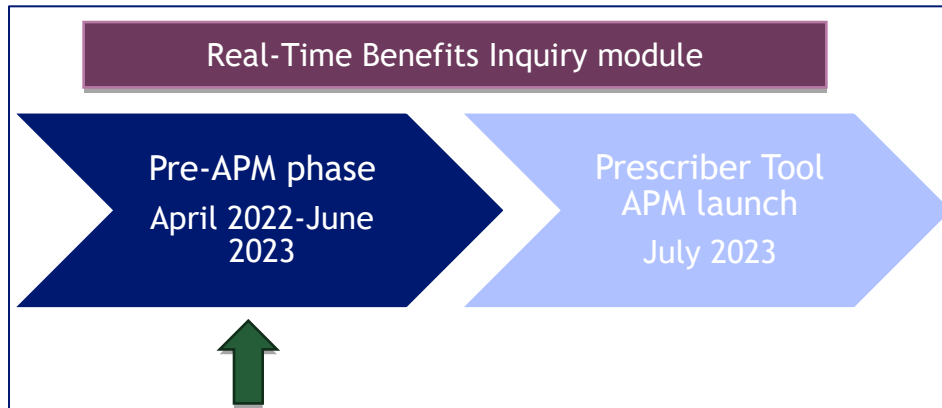
In 2021, the Department implemented a Prescriber Tool for providers. This Tool refers to a collection of capabilities that healthcare providers can access through their Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, including prescription benefit information, electronic prior authorization, and access to an opioid risk module for Health First Colorado members. More information about the Prescriber Tool is available at the Prescriber Tool Project web page, [linked under the “Helpful Links” heading at the end of this document.](#)

Participating in Prescriber Tool APM

This toolkit focuses on the Real-Time Benefits Inquiry (RTBI) module that many providers are already using for commercially insured patients. Health First Colorado is now included as a health plan, allowing prescribers to see inquiries specific to Health First Colorado members.

The Department has designed an alternative payment model program (the Prescriber Tool APM) around the use of the Tool, specifically, the RTBI module. The program has two phases: The Prescriber Tool Pre-APM, and the Prescriber Tool APM. The Prescriber Tool Pre-APM requires completion of the RTBI Attestation form and coordination with the Department at hcpf_pharmacyapm@state.co.us.





Follow-Up Process

The RAEs and Department have been tracking the attestation form submissions, and the Department has communicated the below-listed statuses of each submission. The RAEs will direct the follow-up process and will work with practices to conduct the activities listed under each status heading.

Not functional, inexact screenshots

Department requests that practice submits a ticket to their EHR vendor to display Real-Time Inquiry Benefit information for Health First Colorado members, distinct from a presentation of formulary information, and provide the ticket number to the Department.

Not functional, EHR ticket submitted or requested to submit

Department requests an update on EHR ticket status, including any resolution timeframes, concerns from the EHR vendor, or a lack of understanding of the error request.

Not functional, EHR update scheduled

Department requests submission of screenshots for the e-Prescribing process once the EHR is updated or the vendor is changed.

Not functional, complete

Department is not requesting follow-up from the following practices:

- Those on paper charts;
- Those using an RTBI vendor other than Surescripts;
- Those who expressed unwillingness to participate.

Functional, training request outstanding



Department requests a follow-up to receive the training materials on the RTBI process for Health First Colorado members. This includes either the submission of the training materials, or an update on expected completion date.

Functional, complete

Department does not require follow-up for those that have submitted training materials, barring changes to the EHR or RTBI vendors.

Frequently asked questions

Why am I being asked to complete the attestation?

The Department is implementing this program with the goal of providing support and direction in implementing the Prescriber Tool, which will help improve prescribing workflow for providers with Medicaid patients.

The functionality of the Real-Time Benefits Inquiry module will enable providers to participate in an alternative payment model program. Completion of the attestation determines whether your EHR is ready for participation in the Prescriber Tool APM. It also provides steps to achieve functionality where contracts between the EHR vendor and the RTBI vendor, Surescripts, exist.

Is participation in the Pre-APM or Prescriber Tool APM phases required for Health First Colorado providers?

The Department understands that providers are busy, and the intention is not to add to their workload. At this time, participation in the Prescriber Tool Pre-APM and APM is not mandatory. However, RAEs may be distributing incentive payments to those who complete the Pre-APM process and may have separate requirements. Please work with your RAE to understand their expectations of participation in each of the phases.

How do I know if the RTBI module is functional in my EHR?

The Health First Colorado Real-Time Benefits Inquiry (RTBI) Attestation is designed to walk providers through the process to check whether the RTBI module is functional.

What will the correct screenshots of the alternatives look like?

Because each EHR will display this information differently, we cannot give an exact description. However, we do have demo screenshots that may help providers better identify what the attestation is looking for. To see this, please send a request to hcpf_pharmacyapm@state.co.us.

Why do I need to submit training and workflow incorporation materials? Training and workflow incorporation materials help demonstrate that providers are aware that the RTBI



module is available and that users are trained on how to use it for Health First Colorado members. Because this module is already available for commercial insurance, it is important to call out the distinctions for Health First Colorado. The use of the module will be critical to participate in the Prescriber Tool APM.

The objectives of this training are:

1. To ensure provider awareness of the module for Health First Colorado members.
2. To ensure provider familiarity with module function, as there are distinctions between how information is displayed for commercial versus Health First Colorado members.
3. To ensure the RTBI process for Health First Colorado members is integrated into the prescribing workflow.

What do I need to submit to satisfy the training and workflow incorporation material requirement?

Training and workflow incorporation materials do not need to be extensive. To satisfy the request for training and workflow incorporation materials, please include these components:

1. Health First Colorado vs. Commercial Insurance - Commercial insurance will show different copayments for medications. Health First Colorado member copays will remain the same, independent of the medication prescribed. The alternative medications returned in the Health First Colorado version of the tool are the most cost-effective medications within a therapeutic drug class. The alternative listed first is the most cost-effective medication of the listed alternatives.
2. Alternatives - Up to three alternative medications are returned in the Health First Colorado version of the tool. These are the most cost-effective medications within a therapeutic drug class. The alternative listed first is the most cost-effective medication of the alternatives provided.
3. Brand vs. Generic - Sometimes, a brand-name medication can be more cost-effective for Health First Colorado than a generic. The copay for members will not change.

Sample training materials exist. If you would like to see these, contact hcpf_pharmacyapm@state.co.us

What if I do not have training and workflow incorporation materials already developed?
Practices should create training and workflow incorporation materials that align with the above guidance.



The Department has created a template for training materials, which can be requested by contacting hcpf_pharmacyapm@state.co.us. The purpose of the training is to communicate distinctions for Health First Colorado RTBI information from patients with commercial insurance.

How is this different from other APMs my practice might already be participating in?

This APM is specific to the Prescriber Tool, Real-Time Benefits Inquiry module and is currently a separate program from APM 1 and APM 2.

How much time am I expected to spend to complete the Prescriber Tool Pre-APM steps?

In most cases, the attestation should take around 10 minutes. Additional time may be needed to submit an EHR ticket or create training and workflow incorporation materials, if applicable. Neither of these additional steps have proven to be overly time-consuming for practices who needed to complete them. If you are having trouble and need assistance completing the attestation, please contact your RAE.

What are the technological requirements for participating in this APM?

Participation in the APM requires integration with Surescripts as your RTBI vendor.

Helpful links

Prescriber Tool Project website: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/prescriber-tool-project>

Real-Time Prescription Benefit Tool presentation:
https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sites/hcpf/files/Presentation_Real-Time-Prescription-Benefit-Tool_Sept2021.pdf

Prescriber Tool FAQs (all modules and functionality):
https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sites/hcpf/files/FAQs%2002072022_0.pdf

