

PHARMACY UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

Q3 2022 Updates

Ensuring a higher quality of care and optimal, cost-effective outcomes through utilization management.

THE RIGHT DRUG AT THE RIGHT PRICE

Together, the pharmacists at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and our pharmacy benefit manager, Prime Therapeutics, regularly analyze drug trend data to shape utilization management (UM) programs. This update reflects changes in programs based on that analysis.¹

To get the most current program updates, visit the [Pharmacy Utilization Management web page](#).

Effective July 1st, 2022

New programs

UM program, therapy class or medication descriptions are included below, along with the specific medications targeted by these new UM programs. Please see the corresponding symbol for the type of UM program that applies.

- PA** **Prior Authorization**
 A process to ensure appropriate prescribing and use before a drug will be covered. Coverage may be approved after certain criteria are met.
- QL** **Quantity Limits**
 The maximum amount of drug allowed for each fill. Quantity limits are based on the number of days or number of units (pills, capsules, ounces, etc.). Limits promote safe, cost-effective drug use reducing waste and overuse.
- ST** **Step Therapy**
 A process that requires trying another drug that may be more safe, clinically effective and, in some cases, less expensive, before a more expensive drug is approved.

Description	Target drug	Program type
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) – a common virus	Prevymis, Livtency	QL
Voxzogo – used to increase linear growth in children with a type of genetic bone disorder	Voxzogo	PA QL
Vuity – used to treat age-related blurry near vision	Vuity	QL

¹These UM programs apply generally to all Blue Cross and Blue Plus plans and products. Benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not implement these programs or provide coverage for certain medicines or services addressed in these programs.

Unless otherwise noted, prior authorization and quantity limit programs apply to both brand and generic drugs. Prime Therapeutics LLC is an independent company providing pharmacy benefit management services.

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Description	Target drug	Program type
Cablivi – used to treat acquired thrombotic thrombocytopenia purpura (ATTP), a rare blood clotting disorder <i>Note - QL already exists, PA new as of 7.1.22</i>	Cablivi	PA QL

Changes to existing UM programs



UM programs are updated on an ongoing basis to add new generics for targeted brand medications or new medications when they become available. The specific program additions are noted in the table below.

Description	Target drug	Program type
Acute Migraine Agents – used to treat migraines, a headache of varying intensity accompanied by nausea and sensitivity to light and sound	Elyxyb	PA QL
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – a condition that includes a combination of persistent problems such as difficulty paying attention, hyperactivity, and impulsive behavior	Amphetamine ER suspension (branded generic of Adzenys ER)	QL
Antidepressant – used to treat depression and other disorders, such as anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and neuropathic pain	Citalopram capsule	QL ST
	Bupropion XL	QL
Angiotensin Receptor Blocker (ARB) Renin Inhibitors – used to treat high blood pressure	Valsartan solution	QL ST
Baclofen – used to treat muscle spasms	Fleqsuvy (authorized generic of Ozobax)	PA QL
Biologic Immunomodulators – used to treat conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn’s disease, and ulcerative colitis	Rinvoq 45 mg tablet	PA QL
Constipation Agents – used to treat and prevent constipation	Ibsrela	PA QL
Hereditary Angioedema – a rare genetic disease that causes episodic attacks of swelling	Takhzyro prefilled syringes	PA QL
Insomnia Agents – used to help with problems falling and/or staying asleep	Quviviq	QL ST
Ophthalmic Immunomodulators – used to treat dry eyes	Verkazia	PA QL
Opioids Immediate Release (IR) New to Therapy (NTT) with Daily Limit – short-acting central nervous system pain medicines	Seglentis	QL
Self-administered Oncology Agents – a group of medicines to treat cancer that are a tablet or capsule form and can be taken by mouth	Lenalidomide, Vonjo	PA QL
Somatostatin Analogs – used to reduce the production of various hormones in the body	Lanreotide (branded generic of Somatuline Depot)	PA QL

Effective August 1st, 2022

Changes to existing UM programs









UM programs are updated on an ongoing basis to add new generics for targeted brand medications or new medications when they become available. The specific program additions are noted in the table below.

Description	Target drug	Program type
Factor VIII and Von Willebrand Factor – used to treat blood disorders where blood does not clot normally	Alphanate, Humate-P, Vonvendi, Wilate	 

Effective September 1st, 2022

New programs

UM program, therapy class, or medication descriptions are included below, along with the specific medications targeted by these new UM programs. Please see the corresponding symbol for the type of UM program that applies.

Description	Target drug	Program type
Interleukin (IL) – 13 Antagonist – used to treat atopic dermatitis (a condition that makes the skin red and itchy)	Adbry	 
Cibinqo – used to treat atopic dermatitis (a condition that makes the skin red and itchy)	Cibinqo	 
Pyrukynd – used to treat hemolytic anemia (a condition that results in low red blood cell counts)	Pyrukynd	 
Recorlev – used to treat high cortisol levels in patients with Cushing’s syndrome (a condition where the body makes too much of the hormone cortisol)	Recorlev	 
Tarpeyo – used to reduce levels of protein in the urine caused by a type of kidney disease	Tarpeyo	