

Pharmacy Passages

Health Exchange Essential Health Benefit (EHB) Formulary Update



OptumRx Direct EHB Plans

September 2021

The following formulary decisions and updates apply to OptumRx® Standard EHB formularies.

The OptumRx Business Committee meets monthly to evaluate tier placements and new prescription products approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This committee makes decisions based on information and recommendations from the OptumRx Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, comprised of independent physician providers and pharmacists.

The following are the strategic clinical decisions made in the past month. Your actual plan's copays and/or coinsurance may differ from those indicated depending on the selected plan design, which determines coverage and pharmacy provider(s).

The tier chart below does not necessarily correlate to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) submission tiers.

HIX BASE (RxBuilder) Tiers	HIX ENHANCED (RxBuilder) Tiers
Generic = 1	Low-Cost Generic = LCG
Preferred Brand = 2	Generic = 1
Non-Preferred Brand = 3	Preferred Brand = 2
Specialty = 4	Non-Preferred Brand = 3
Both versions include preventive (PV) drugs which may have \$0 when health care reform requirements are met.	Specialty Generic & Specialty Preferred Brands = 4
Both versions may contain Oral Chemo (CM) tier if elected.	Specialty Non-Preferred Brands = 5

Key

PA: Prior Authorization

ST: Step Therapy

QL: Quantity Limits

SP: Specialty Pharmacy

Down-tiers

Medications may move to a lower tier or be added to the formulary throughout the year, helping members take immediate advantage of cost savings.

Please note there are no down-tiers at this time.

Up-tiers

Medications may move to a higher tier on Jan. 1.

Please note there are no up-tiers at this time.

New Brand Launches and New Strengths

New brand name medications and new strengths launch throughout the year. Final coverage status for new medications is determined after thorough review by the OptumRx Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. New brand launches may include Authorized Brand Alternatives.*

Therapeutic Use	Medication Name	EHB Base	EHB Enhanced	Programs				Effective Date
				SP	PA	ST	QL	
Immunological Agents	Prevnar 20 inj	Tier 2	Tier 2	---	---	---	---	8/13/2021

* Authorized Brand Alternatives, also referred to as Authorized Generics, are approved brand name medications marketed by either the brand company or another company. Although it does not have the brand name on its label, it is the exact same drug product as the brand product.

New Generic Launches

New generic medication launches occur throughout the year.

Therapeutic Use	Generic Medication Name	Brand Medication Name	EHB Base	EHB Enhanced	Programs				Effective Date
					SP	PA	ST	QL	
Antineoplastics	Sunitinib cap 25mg, 37.5mg, 50mg	Sutent	Tier 4 (CM)	Tier 4 (CM)	X	X	---	---	8/16/2021
Antispasticity agents	Baclofen intrathecal 10 mg/20ml, 20 mg/20ml, 40 mg/20ml	Lioresal	Tier 1 (2022: EXC)	Tier 1 (2022: EXC)	---	---	---	---	8/27/2021
Cardiovascular Agents	Metyrosine cap 250mg	Demser	Tier 1	Tier 1	---	---	---	---	8/23/2021
Electrolytes/ minerals/ metals/ vitamins	Deferiprone tab 500mg	Ferriprox	Tier 1 (2022: Tier 3)	Tier 1 (2022: Tier 3)	---	X	---	---	8/23/2021

PA **Prior Authorization**

Prior Authorization requires physicians to provide additional clinical information to verify member benefit coverage.

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.

STEP **Step Therapy**

Step Therapy directs members to try a lower-cost alternative (Step 1) before a higher-cost medication (Step 2) may be eligible for coverage.

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.

QL **Quantity Limits**

Quantity Limits establish the maximum quantity of a drug that is covered within a specified timeframe.

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.

AR **Age Restrictions** (this applies to a limited number of clinical programs)

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.

If you would like additional information that is not listed, please contact your OptumRx representative.



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