

August 2018

Federal Employee Program Benefit Procedure Change for Autoimmune Infusion Drug

Infliximab (Brand names: Remicade, Inflectra, and Renflexis)

Beginning January 1, 2019, Federal Employee Program® (FEP) benefit procedures will change for the autoimmune infusion drug infliximab (brand names Remicade, Inflectra, and Renflexis).

Members Currently Receiving the Drug

Members currently receiving the drug may be covered under either pharmacy or medical benefits. Those who currently receive the drug under medical benefits will continue to receive it under their medical benefits.

Members currently receiving the drug under pharmacy benefits will be “grandfathered,” and can continue to receive it under their pharmacy benefits. Later this year, FEP will notify these members by mail that they will remain covered under their pharmacy benefits.

Members Receiving 1st Infusion of Drug Prior to January 1, 2019

Members who receive a first infusion of the drug prior to January 1, 2019 will receive it under pharmacy benefits and will continue receiving it under pharmacy benefits.

If a member receiving the drug prior to January 1, 2019 changes from one FEP benefit plan to another FEP benefit plan (e.g., from Standard Option to Basic Option), they will receive the drug under medical benefits, regardless of how they previously received it.

Members Receiving 1st Infusion of Drug On or After January 1, 2019

Members who receive a first infusion on or after January 1, 2019 can only receive the drug under medical benefits. (FEP claims systems will be able to tell which members are new recipients. Providers do not need to change anything about how they code claims for this drug.)

If a member changes from one health insurer to another (that is, from another carrier to FEP), they will receive the drug under medical benefits, regardless of how they previously received it.

Usually rheumatologists and gastrointestinal specialists prescribe these drugs. The infusion may take place at a member’s home, outpatient hospital, prescriber’s office, or infusion clinic. The January 1, 2019 change will be effective regardless of the type of provider prescribing the drug or infusion setting.

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