

## Step Therapy Will Apply to Medicare Advantage Health Plans

Starting **July 15, 2019**, our Step Therapy pharmacy program will apply to your patients who have a Medicare Advantage BlueMedicare<sup>SM</sup> HMO or BlueMedicare<sup>SM</sup> PPO health plan. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging insurers to implement step therapy programs to ensure Medicare patients try lower-cost medications before certain higher-cost medications are approved. This program includes a *new care coordination component managed by Magellan Rx Management on our behalf*.

### Step Therapy

- Step Therapy promotes safe and effective use of medications, reduces inappropriate use of medications and helps lower costs.
- If a prescribed drug does not meet Step Therapy criteria, it will not be approved until your patient has tried one or more alternative medications. Only certain alternative medications are included in Step Therapy based on clinical quality and safety data.
- We will send you a letter if your BlueMedicare Medicare Advantage patients are eligible for Step Therapy Care Coordination.

### How the Step Therapy Care Coordination Program Works

#### Providers

- You will get a letter from Florida Blue if authorization for a drug is denied. The letter includes a list of drug alternatives and lets you know your patient is eligible for Step Therapy Care Coordination.
- Magellan Rx Management has educational materials about step therapy requirements for providers and can help you get an authorization for a preferred alternative drug if you receive a denial.
- Your patients who enroll in Step Therapy Care Coordination may be eligible for a financial incentive upon completion of the program.
- You can call Magellan RX Management at **888-223-0658** if you have questions about Step Therapy Care Coordination.

#### Members

- If an authorization request for a drug is denied, your patient will receive a call from a Magellan Rx Management pharmacist or registered nurse. They will consult with your patient about alternative drugs, drug interactions, dose consolidation and preferred alternative drugs.
- Magellan Rx Management will follow up with your patient after 30 days to ensure an alternative drug was prescribed timely to prevent an interruption to your treatment plan. They will also provide your patient with helpful drug and disease education.
- Magellan Rx Management and Florida Blue will monitor results of patient outreach activities to determine progress made and any improvement opportunities.

### More Information

We update our pharmacy program drug lists each quarter. Look for pharmacy update bulletins at [floridablue.com](http://floridablue.com)> *Providers*> *Tools & Resources*> *Pharmacy*. The following questions and answers provide more information about our Step Therapy Program.

## Questions and Answers

### Step Therapy Program for Medicare Advantage Patients

#### What is Step Therapy for Medicare Advantage patients?

It's a new program for Medicare Advantage BlueMedicare HMO and BlueMedicare PPO patients that promotes safe and effective use of medications, reduces inappropriate use of medications and helps lower costs. CMS is encouraging insurers to implement step therapy programs for their Medicare Advantage members.

If a prescribed drug does not meet Step Therapy criteria, it will be denied and the provider will receive a letter listing alternative drugs they can prescribe.

#### Does a physician have to get an authorization for an alternative drug?

- If an alternative drug and treatment are initiated within 30 days from the denial of a prescribed drug, the member will be eligible for a financial incentive.
- If an alternative drug is not a good option for your patient, you may indicate that at the time of the initial authorization request. If you don't indicate this at the time of the initial request, and your authorization request is denied, you can follow our standard appeal process. Our appeal process is outlined in the online *Manual for Physicians and Providers* at [floridablue.com](http://floridablue.com)> *Providers* (top of the page)> *Provider Manual*.

#### What if an alternative drug is not suitable for a patient?

You can list the reasons why an alternative medication is not right for your patient at the time of the request. If the request has already been denied, you will have to file an appeal (see appeal instructions above).

#### When does Step Therapy for Medicare Advantage patients start?

It starts on July 15, 2019.

#### What is Step Therapy Care Coordination?

It's part of a step therapy program for your patients who have a Medicare Advantage health plan.

- If your authorization request is denied, you'll receive a letter from Florida Blue letting you know that your patient is eligible for Step Therapy Care Coordination managed by Magellan RX Management.
- A Magellan Rx Management clinician will consult with your patient about alternative drugs, drug interactions, dose consolidation and preferred alternative drugs.
- Magellan Rx Management will follow up with your patient after 30 days to ensure an alternative drug was prescribed timely to prevent an interruption to your treatment plan. They will also provide your patient with helpful drug and disease education.
- Your patients may be eligible for a financial incentive upon completion of the program.

#### What health plans are included in the Medicare Advantage Step Therapy Program?

- BlueMedicare HMO
- BlueMedicare PPO Regional
- BlueMedicare PPO Local
- BlueMedicare PPO for Retirees

## What drugs require Step Therapy?

The table below shows which medications and their alternatives are included in the program.

Requested Product		Preferred Alternative Agent(s)		
Acthar HP	J0800	Various injectable corticosteroids	J0702	
			J1020	
			J1030	
			J1040	
			J1100	
			J1720	
			J2920	
			J2930	
			J3301	
Aloxi	J2469	granisetron	J1626	
			ondansetron	J2405
Eylea	J0178	bevacizumab ophthalmic	J3490	
Fusilev	J0641	leucovorin	J0640	
Lucentis	J2778	bevacizumab ophthalmic	J3490	
Neupogen	J1442	Granix	J1447	
			Zarxio	Q5101
			Nivestym	Q5110
Neulasta	J2505	Fulphila	Q5108	
			Udenyca	Q5111
Procrit/Epogen	J0885	Retacrit	Q5106	
Note: Step therapy may only be applied to new prescriptions or administrations of Part B drugs for enrollees that are not actively receiving the affected medication.				

## How will I know if my patients are eligible for Step Therapy Care Coordination?

You will get a letter from Florida Blue letting you know that your patient is eligible for care coordination and that an alternative drug should be prescribed to your patient.

## How do I request authorization for step therapy medications?

Please visit the [Magellan Rx Management provider portal](#) to request authorization or call them at **800-424-4947**.

## Can I appeal an authorization denial for a drug?

Yes. You can use our standard appeal process outlined in the *Manual for Physicians and Providers*. Go to [floridablue.com](http://floridablue.com)> *Providers* (top of the page)> [Provider Manual](#) and search for **Appeals**.

## What if I have questions about Step Therapy Care Coordination?

Please call Magellan Rx Management at **888-223-0658**.