



Pharmacy Management
151 Farmington Avenue
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May 2010

Important Notice about Aetna Pharmacy Benefit Plans

Dear Plan Sponsor:

On July 1, 2010, Aetna's Precertification, Quantity Limits and Step-Therapy Lists will be updated

These edits will affect commercial HMO (all funding and all segments) and PPO (all funding, individual, small group and select) members who have Aetna Pharmacy benefits. Drugs on Aetna's Precertification, Quantity Limits and Step-Therapy Lists are based on accepted treatment guidelines, including FDA-approved drug manufacturer labeling instructions and clinical studies. Please review the attached lists to see which drugs are affected by these changes.

Bulk chemicals used for compounded medications:

Compound drug therapy using bulk chemicals will no longer be covered as of July 1, 2010. Pharmacies will be required to use FDA-approved drugs when compounding medications. These drugs are considered pharmaceutical aids, which are not FDA-approved and lack adequate literature to support safety and efficacy.

Precertification—approval before coverage

Some medications require approval before the drug is covered. Precertification promotes safety by making sure that certain conditions are met before these drugs are covered. The program usually applies to drugs that:

- are likely to be taken inappropriately.
- should only be prescribed for certain conditions.
- tend to be more expensive than other medications proven to be just as effective.

Quantity limits—restrictions for member safety

As part of our precertification program, we include quantity limits for certain medications. Quantity limits are used to encourage member safety and are based on pharmaceutical guidelines and FDA-approved dosing recommendations from the manufacturer. They are assigned to medications that are often taken inappropriately or in amounts greater than dosage recommendations.

Step-therapy—coverage when other drugs are tried first

To get coverage for a step-therapy medication, your employees must first try other equally effective but less costly drugs. However, if it is medically necessary for them to use a medication on the Step-Therapy List without using other medications first, their doctors can ask for a medical exception.

How do employees get a medical exception?

If a doctor believes it is medically necessary for a member to take a drug on these lists without the requirements, the doctor will submit a request to Aetna seeking coverage for the drug. Participating plan doctors have been told about these changes.

Please contact us if you have any questions

As with Aetna's Preferred Drug List (formulary), the Precertification, Quantity Limits and Step-Therapy Lists are subject to change. For up-to-date information, you employees may visit www.aetna.com/formulary. Or they may call Member Services at the number on their Member ID card.

If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact your Aetna Account Manager.

*Enclosure

"Aetna" is the brand name used for products and services provided by one or more of the Aetna group of subsidiary companies. The Aetna companies that offer, underwrite or administer benefits coverage include: Aetna Health Inc., Aetna Health of California Inc., Aetna Health of the Carolinas Inc., Aetna Health of Illinois Inc., Aetna Health Insurance Company of New York, Corporate Health Insurance Company and/or Aetna Life Insurance Company. Aetna Pharmacy Management refers to an internal business unit of Aetna Health Management, LLC. Aetna Rx Home Delivery, LLC, is a subsidiary of Aetna Inc.

This material is for informational purposes only and contains only a partial, general description of plan benefits or programs and does not constitute a contract. Consult the plan documents (Schedule of Benefits, Certificate of Coverage, Evidence of Coverage, Group Agreement, Group Insurance Certificate, Booklet, Booklet Certificate, Group Policy) to determine governing contractual provisions, including procedures, exclusions and limitations relating to the plan.

In accordance with state law, California HMO members who are receiving coverage for medications that are added to the Precertification or Step-Therapy lists will continue to have those medications covered for as long as the treating physician continues prescribing them, provided that the drug is appropriately prescribed and is considered safe and effective for treating the enrollee's medical condition. Nothing in this section shall preclude the prescribing provider from prescribing another drug covered by the plan that is medically appropriate for the enrollee, nor shall anything in this section be construed to prohibit generic drug substitutions.

Step Therapy, Precertification and Quantity Limits may not apply in all service areas. For example, Step Therapy, Precertification and Quantity Limits programs do not apply to fully-insured members in Indiana. Step Therapy is also not available for fully-funded groups in New Jersey. However, these programs are available to self-funded plans in New Jersey and Indiana. Please refer to your plan document or call the Member Services number on your ID card.

The term precertification means the utilization review process to determine whether the requested service, procedure, prescription drug or medical device meets the company's clinical criteria for coverage. It does not mean precertification as defined by Texas law, as a reliable representation of payment of care or services to fully insured HMO and PPO members.

**Effective July 1, 2010—
Changes to Aetna's Precertification, Quantity Limit and Step-Therapy Lists
for Commercial Plans**

Drugs Added to the Precertification, Quantity Limits and Step-Therapy Lists

Precertification Drug(s)	
ARCALYST	
ADOXA, DYNACIN, MINOCIN, MONODOX	
MARINOL	
QUALAQUIN	
Opioids and NUZYNTA in members with paid pharmacy claims for buprenorphine sublingual or SUBUTEX or SUBOXONE*	SAFETY EDIT- will apply to all COMMERCIAL business

* SUBOXONE, SUBUTEX and *buprenorphine sublingual* are used to treat opioid dependence. NUZYNTA or any opioid will be subject to precertification if used with SUBOXONE, SUBUTEX or *buprenorphine sublingual*.

Quantity Limit Prescription Drugs	Quantity Limit(s)
AZULFIDINE, sulfasalazine, sulfazine	500 mg = 8 tablets per day
AZULFIDINE EN, sulfasalazine EC, sulfazine EC	500 mg EN = 8 tablets per day
CANASA	1000 mg = 1 suppository per day
DIPENTUM	250 mg = 4 capsules per day
PENTASA	250 mg = 16 capsules per day 500 mg = 8 capsules per day
ADDERALL XR, amphetamine/dextroamphetamine ER	All strengths = 1 capsule per day
CONCERTA	18 mg, 27 mg and 54 mg = 1 tablet per day
METADATE CD	20 mg and 30 mg = 1 capsule per day
RITALIN LA	10 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg = 1 capsule per day

Step-Therapy Drugs	Required Prerequisite Drug(s)
AMRIX, FEXMID	one preferred alternative AND <i>cyclobenzaprine</i>
OPANA IR	<i>morphine sulfate IR</i> or <i>oxycodone IR</i> first
CLODERM, CUTIVATE, DESONATE, LOCOID, LOCOID LIPOCREAM, VERDESO	preferred topical corticosteroid first

Benefits exclusion(s)**	
EPICERAM SKIN BARRIER EMULSION	TETRIX KIT

**These items are excluded as they are classified as devices and not drugs by the FDA

Medical exceptions

If a doctor believes it is medically necessary for a member to take a medication on this list without restrictions, he or she may submit a medical exception request.

Please visit www.aetna.com/formulary for the complete list of drugs requiring precertification or a medical exception.