EFFECTIVE D	BER: PHARMACY-72				
	subscriber contract excludes coverage for a specific service or pract. In such cases, medical or drug policy criteria are not appliefollowing line/s of business:				
	Policy Application				
		[			
<b>Category</b> : $\boxtimes$ Commercial Group (e.g., EPO, HMO, POS, PPO) $\square$ Medicare Adva		☐ Medicare Advantage			
<ul><li>☑ Off Exchange Direct Pay</li><li>☑ Essential Plan (EP)</li></ul>					
☐ Medicaid & Health and Recovery Plans (MMC/HARP) ☐ Child Health Plus (CHP)					
☐ Federal Employee Program (FEP) ☐ Ancillary Services					
☐ Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP)					

#### **DESCRIPTION**:

Step Therapy encourages use of safe, cost-effective medications within different therapeutic drug categories. The entry of new generics and cost-effective therapeutic alternatives has provided an opportunity to promote these therapies as first-line.

#### POLICY:

Step Therapy requires members try certain first-line options before other medications will be considered medically necessary for treatment of a specific condition. Step therapy requirements may apply to both brands and generics. Typically, first-line medications are classified as generics, but there are instances where brand name medications may be preferred.

Based upon our review and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, these medications have been medically proven to be effective and therefore **medically necessary** for medical treatment if the request meets the following criteria:

ANTIBACTERIALS			
Drug	Requirement		
Doryx, Doryx MPC	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with immediate-release doxycycline <b>AND</b> immediate-release		
Doxycycline hyclate DR	minocycline		
Clindagel 75 mL	Covered to the state of a side office of a side of a side office of a side of		
Clindamycin 1% Gel 75 mL (Oceanside & Solaris)	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with generic clindamycin <b>AND</b> tretinoin		
Amzeeq	Coverage requires serious side effects or drug failure with TWO topical treatments for acne (erythromycin, clindamycin, tretinoin, adapalene, dapsone, tazarotene)		
Zilxi 1.5%	Coverage requires serious side effects or drug failure with topical metronidazole and one additional topical antibiotic (such as clindamycin, erythromycin, azelaic acid).		

ANTICOAGULANTS						
Drug		Requirement				
		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Xarelto or Eliquis	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Xarelto or Eliquis			
	ANTIDEPRESSANTS					
	Drug	Requirement				
Emsam		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or dr failure with at least <b>ONE</b> of the following first line agents: escitalopram, fluoxetine, citalopram, sertraline, paroxetine,	rug			
Forfivo XL	. 450 mg	mirtazapine, bupropion or venlafaxine immediate-release tab venlafaxine extended-release capsules	olets or			
Venlafaxine ER <b>Tablets</b>		<ul> <li>Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drailure with venlafaxine ER capsules, however:         <ul> <li>Equal doses of venlafaxine HCL extended-release tab bioequivalent to venlafaxine ER capsules, but are not substitutable at the pharmacy level</li> <li>A daily dose of 225 mg venlafaxine ER may be obtained ordering venlafaxine ER 75 mg capsules, taken as 3 conce daily</li> <li>A daily dose of 112.5 mg venlafaxine ER may be obtained ordering venlafaxine ER 37.5 mg capsules, taken as 3 capsules once daily</li> <li>The claims processing system will not read history for therefore claims will not automatically pay, therefore a step therapy request must be made for coverage determination</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	lets are ed by apsules ined by this edit			
Drizalma S	Sprinkle	Coverage requires serious side effects or drug failure with dul	oxetine			
Diizaina	Эрттис	ANTIEMETICS	OXCUITO			
Drug		Requirement				
Anzemet	Coverag	e requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with				
Sancuso	_	ge requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with etron <b>AND</b> granisetron				
		ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS				
Dru	g	Requirement				
Ecoza						
Ertaczo		Coverage requires decumentation of parious side effects or drug failure	and the state of t			
			le requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with			
I I I IIICONAZOIA I			the following generic topical antifungals: ciclopirox, econazole,			
Naftifine		ketoconazole, nystatin				
Xolegel						
Oxistat Lotion						
Naftin Coverage TWO of t		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure TWO of the following generic topical antifungals: ciclopirox, econazole, ketoconazole, nystatin, <b>AND</b> generic naftifine	with			

ORAL ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS				
Drug	Diagnosis	Requirement		
	Vulvovaginal candidiasis (VVC)	Coverage requires documentation of serious side- effects or drug failure of oral fluconazole		
Brexafemme	Recurrent vulvovaginal candidiasis (RVVC)	Coverage requires documentation of serious side- effects or drug failure of a 6-month oral fluconazole treatment course		

Drug Requirement		
Nequirement		
Onzetra Spray  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failu	re with	
Zomig Nasal Spray/Zolmitriptan Nasal Spray  Spray/Zolmitriptan Nasal Spray  Soverage requires documentation of serious side effects of drug failed TWO generic triptans:(Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Frovatriptan, Naratriptan Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan)	•	
Tosymra  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failugeneric sumatriptan nasal spray AND TWO generics oral triptans:  (Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Frovatriptan, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan)		
Zembrace Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failur injectable sumatriptan	e with	

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AINI	TPSY	СП		163

Drug	Diagnosis	Requirement
Caplyta	Schizophrenia	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO generic atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, ziprasidone, quetiapine, aripiprazole, paliperidone ER)
	Bipolar Depression	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO alternative therapies for bipolar depression (lamotrigine, lithium, quetiapine, olanzapine, valproate)
	Schizophrenia	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure
Fanapt	Bipolar Disorder	with TWO generic atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, ziprasidone, quetiapine, aripiprazole, paliperidone ER)
Latuda	Schizophrenia	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO generic atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, ziprasidone, quetiapine, aripiprazole, paliperidone ER)
Latuda	Bipolar Depression	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO alternative therapies for bipolar depression (lamotrigine, lithium, quetiapine, olanzapine, valproate)
	Schizophrenia	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO generic atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, ziprasidone, quetiapine, aripiprazole, paliperidone ER)
Rexulti	Major Depressive Disorder	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO different antidepressants (with different mechanisms of action) used in combination <b>OR</b> ONE antidepressant in combination with ONE other augmentation therapy (such as atypical antipsychotic, lithium, buspirone)

Step Therapy Policy

	Agitation associated with Dementia due to Alzheimer disease	Requests for this diagnosis will be approved.		
Secuado	Schizophrenia	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO generic atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, ziprasidone, quetiapine, aripiprazole, paliperidone ER)		
	Schizophrenia	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug fa		
	Bipolar disorder		c atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, iapine, aripiprazole, paliperidone ER)	
Vraylar	Bipolar Depression	failure with TWO	es documentation of serious side effects or drug alternative therapies for bipolar depression um, quetiapine, olanzapine, valproate)	
	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug f with TWO different antidepressants (with different mechanisms of action) used in combination <b>OR</b> ONE antidepressant in combination bisorder with ONE other augmentation therapy (such as atypical antipsychological intitution)			
		AN	TIVIRALS	
	Drug		Requirement	
Acyclovir	5% cream	Coverage regu	ires documentation of serious side effects or drug	
Penciciovició de la como en la co			clovir 5% ointment.	
Xerese 5%-1% cream		Tallule Willi acy	CIOVII 3/6 OIIIII II EIII.	
Zovirax 5% cream Coverage required failure with acy			rires documentation of serious side effects or drug relovir 5% ointment <b>AND</b> generic acyclovir 5%	
Denavir 1	% cream		rires documentation of serious side effects or drug relovir 5% ointment <b>AND</b> generic penciclovir 1%	
BLOOD GLUCOSE REGULATORS				
		(SELECT I	DENICITE ONLY)	
		(SELECT)	BENEFITS ONLY)	
	Drug	(SELECT)	Requirement	
Admelog	Drug	(SEEEGT)	Requirement	
Apidra	Drug	(SELECT)	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side	
Apidra Fiasp	-	·	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix	
Apidra Fiasp	<b>Drug</b> Novolog Mix 70/3	·	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, I	-	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, I	Novolog Mix 70/3	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with corresponding Humulin	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, I	Novolog Mix 70/3	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with corresponding Humulin product (N, R, 70-30)	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, I Novolin 70 Nesina	Novolog Mix 70/3	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with corresponding Humulin product (N, R, 70-30)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, Novolin 70 Nesina Alogliptin Kazano	Novolog Mix 70/3	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with corresponding Humulin product (N, R, 70-30)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Januvia, Janumet,	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, Novolin 70 Nesina Alogliptin Kazano	Novolog Mix 70/3 0-30, Novolin N, N	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with corresponding Humulin product (N, R, 70-30)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side	
Apidra Fiasp Novolog, Novolin 70 Nesina Alogliptin Kazano Alogliptin/Oseni	Novolog Mix 70/3 0-30, Novolin N, N	D, Insulin Aspart	Requirement  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Humalog, Humalog Mix 75/25, or Insulin Lispro (Lilly authorized generic)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with corresponding Humulin product (N, R, 70-30)  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Januvia, Janumet,	

Step Therapy Policy

Fortamet

		" ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' '		
Glumetza) Metformin HCI 625 mg		effects or drug failure with generic immediate-release metformin AND generic extended-release metformin generic equivalent of Glucophage XR)		
Blood Glucose Meters and Test Strips		Coverage of any non-preferred blood glucose meter or test strip requires either: a previous trial and ailure <b>OR</b> the inability to use any Abbott (Freestyle or Precision Xtra) or One Touch products		
Qtern		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects <b>OR</b> drug failure with Glyxambi and Steglujan.		
Rezvoglar		Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name antus, insulin glargine, and insulin glargine-yfgn, he member will be required to use brand name antus, insulin glargine, and insulin glargine-yfgn unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.		
Invokamet, I	Invokamet Xr, Segluromet e	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Xigduo XR AND Synjardy XR		
Invokana, S	Jenain	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Farxiga AND Jardiance		
Dapagliflozin		Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety orofile, and equivalent strength of brand name Farxiga, the member will be required to use brand name Farxiga unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.		
Dapagliflozin/Metformin		Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety orofile, and equivalent strength of brand name Kigduo, the member will be required to use brand name Xigduo unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.		
		CULAR AGENTS		
Drug		Requirement		
Edarbi	Coverage requires documentation of the following: losartan, irbesartan, v	of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO of valsartan		
Edarbyclor		overage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO of e following: losartan/hctz, irbesartan/hctz, valsartan/hctz		
Thalitone	chlorthalidone.	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with generic		
	CARDIOVASCULAR A	GENTS, DYSLIPIDEMICS		
Drug		Requirement		
Livalo Pitavastatin Calcium Zypitamag		Documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO of the following generic statins: atorvastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin		
Praluent	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure Repatha.			

Coverage requires documentation of serious side

Motegrity

		NEUROLOGIO	CAL AGENTS	
Drug Requirement				
Savella	duloxetine			
Adlarity  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure of donepezil, donepezil ODT, galantamine, <b>OR</b> rivastigmine				
Xadago	·			
		DERMATOLOG	ICAL AGENTS	
Dru	g		Requirement	
Aczone 7.5 Dapsone 7.	•	Coverage requires docume a topical retinoid <b>AND</b> Daps	ntation of serious side effects or drug failure with sone 5%	
Adapalene Lotion, Solr	n, Swab	Coverage requires docume adapalene cream or gel AN	ntation of serious side effects or drug failure with	
Differin 0.1% Lotion  Eucrisa Ointment		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with ONE generic topical steroid (aclometasone, amcinonide, betamethasone, clobetasol, desonide, desoximetasone, diflorasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide—E, fluticasone, halobetasol, hydrocortisone 2.5%, hydrocortisone valerate, hydrocortisone butyrate, mometasone, prednicarbate, triamcinolone) <b>OR</b> ONE of the following: tacrolimus ointment or pimecrolimus cream.		
Noritate		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with generic metronidazole cream, gel, or lotion		
Zyclara 2.5% Cream Pump, Zyclara 3.75% Cream And Zyclara 3.75% Cream Pump Imiquimod 3.75% Cream And Imiquimod 3.75% Cream Pump		imiquimod 5% cream	ntation of serious side effects or drug failure with	
		GASTROINTEST	FINAL AGENTS	
		Drug	Requirement	
Amitiza		Chronic idiopathic constipation or IBS-C	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with lubiprostone <b>AND</b> <u>either</u> Linzess <b>OR</b> Trulance for a diagnosis of chronic idiopathic constipation or irritable bowel syndrome with constipation.	
		Opioid-induced constipation	Coverage requires documentation of drug failure or serious side effects with Movantik for a diagnosis of opioid induced constipation.	

constipation (CIC)

Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Linzess OR

Trulance for a diagnosis of chronic idiopathic

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Relistor Ta	ablet	Coverage requires documentation of serious		
Symproic		side effects or drug failure with Movantik for a diagnosis of opioid-induced constipation		
Ibsrela		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Linzess, lubiprostone, <b>AND</b> Trulance for a diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation		
Dexilant		Coverage requires documentation of serious		
Dexlansop	orazole DR	side effects or drug failure with lansoprazole or omeprazole		
Omeprazole/Sodium Bicarbonate Packets  Zegerid Packets		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with THREE of the following: omeprazole, pantoprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole		
Pheburane		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with generic sodium phenylbutyrate		
GENITOURINARY AGENTS; ANTISPASMODICS, URINARY				
Drug	Requirement			
Oxytrol	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO of the following: oxybutynin, oxybutynin ER, tolterodine, trospium, trospium XR			
Gelnique	Exception:  Gelnique does not require step therapy for individuals 65 years of age or older			

HORMONAL AGENTS. STIMULANT/REPLACEMENT/MODIFYING (ADRENAL)

Drug	Requirement
Bryhali	Coverage requires documentation of a serious side effects
Cloderm, Clocortolone Pivalate	or drug failure with TWO of the following generic topical
Cordran (Cream, Lotion, Ointment)	steroids:
Desonide 0.05% Gel	
Halog, Halcinonide	aclometasone, amcinonide, betamethasone, clobetasol,
Halobetasol Propionate 0.05% Foam	desonide, desoximetasone, diflorasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide–E, fluticasone, halobetasol (except foam),
Impeklo	hydrocortisone 2.5%, hydrocortisone valerate,
Impoyz Spray	hydrocortisone butyrate (except lotion), mometasone,
Lexette	prednicarbate, triamcinolone
Pandel	
Sernivo Lotion	
Ultravate Lotion	
Verdeso	

**IMMUNOLOGICAL AGENTS** 

Drug	Requirement
Prograf Granules	Must have documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with generic
	tacrolimus capsules Exception: age less than 9 years old

		MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS		
Drug		Requirement		
Aubagio, generic teriflunomide		erage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with of the following: Avonex, Copaxone (or Glatiramer), Plegridy, Rebif		
		rerage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with O of the following agents: Gilenya (or fingolimod), dimethyl fumarate,		
		zent, Zeposia.		
		OPHTHALMIC AGENTS		
Drug		Requirement		
Zerviate Cover		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with TWO of the following antihistamine eye drops: azelastine, olopatadine, epinastine		
Xelpros Vyzulta Zioptan Iyuzeh		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Lumigan <b>AND</b> either latanoprost or travoprost		
Tafluprost				
Rhopressa, Rocklatan Cover		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with any covered prostaglandin analogue (such as bimatoprost, travoprost, latanoprost, Lumigan)		
Restasis 0.05% Cove		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure of cyclosporine 0.05% eye emulsion <b>AND</b> Xiidra 5% eye drops		
Atropine Sulfate/PF		Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure of generic atropine 1% drops		
		PANCREATIC ENZYMES		
Drug				
Drug		Requirement		
Pancreaze Covera	-	Requirement res documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Creon		
Pancreaze Covera	npep	res documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Creon		
Pancreaze Covera and Ze	npep	res documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Creon  SPIRATORY TRACT/PULMONARY AGENTS		
Pancreaze Covera	npep RES	Requirement  Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name Advair HFA, the member will be required to use brand name Advair HFA unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.		
Pancreaze Covera and Ze  Pertzye  Drug	RES	res documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with Creon  SPIRATORY TRACT/PULMONARY AGENTS  Requirement  Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name Advair HFA, the member will be required to use brand name Advair HFA unless there is		
Pancreaze Pertzye  Covera and Ze  Drug  Fluticasone-Salmete	RES	PIRATORY TRACT/PULMONARY AGENTS  Requirement  Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name Advair HFA, the member will be required to use brand name Advair HFA unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.  Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name Breo, the member will be required to use brand name Breo unless there is adequate		
Pancreaze Pertzye  Covera and Ze  Drug  Fluticasone-Salmete  Fluticasone-Vilantere	RES	PIRATORY TRACT/PULMONARY AGENTS  Requirement  Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name Advair HFA, the member will be required to use brand name Advair HFA unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.  Based on comparable indications, efficacy, safety profile, and equivalent strength of brand name Breo, the member will be required to use brand name Breo unless there is adequate justification as to why it will not work for you.  Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug		

**Step Therapy Policy** 

Lonhala Magnair 25 mcg Starter		25 mcg Starter	Coverage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with any TWO of the following long-acting muscarinic receptor antagonists (LAMA) containing inhalers: Anoro Ellipta, Bevespi Aerosphere, Incruse Ellipta, Neohaler,		
Lonhala Magnair 25 mcg Refill		25 mcg Refill			
Yupelri			tiotropium bromide Handihaler, Spiriva Respimat, Stiolto Respimat, or Utibron		
Duaklir Pressair			Coverage requires serious side effects or drug failure with at least TWO long-acting muscarinic receptor antagonist/long-acting beta agonist (LAMA/LABA) agents. Agents include: Anoro, Bevespi, Stiolto and Utibron.		
SELECTIVE ESTROGEN RECEPTOR MODIFYING AGENTS					
Drug		Requirement			
Estring		rage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with a topical			
Osphena	_	ginal estrogen product such as conjugated estrogen vaginal cream (Premarin) or stradiol vaginal cream (Estrace).			
			KELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS		
Drug			Requirement		
Norgesic F	orte		•		
Forte		THREE of the f	erage requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure with EE of the following (generic) agents: baclofen, carisoprodol, chlorzoxazone, obenzaprine, methocarbamol, metaxalone, orphenadrine, tizanidine		
SLEEP DISORDER AGENTS					
Di	rug		Requirement		
Edluar			e requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure idem		
Belsomra, Dayvigo, Coverage		o, Coverage	e requires documentation of serious side effects or drug failure  O of the following: zolpidem, eszopiclone, zaleplon		

#### **POLICY GUIDELINES:**

- This policy is applicable to drugs that are included on a specific drug formulary. If a drug referenced
  in this policy is non-formulary, please reference the Coverage Exception Evaluation Policy for All
  Lines of Business Formularies policy for review guidelines.
- 2. Supportive documentation of previous drug use must be submitted for any criteria requiring trial of a preferred agent if the preferred drug is not found in claims history.
- 3. Approval for step therapy requirements may not bypass MAC penalty. Please see MAC penalty policy for detail of this benefit.
- 4. Utilization Management are contract dependent and coverage criteria may be dependent on the contract renewal date. Additionally, coverage of drugs listed in this policy are contract dependent. Refer to specific contract/benefit language for exclusions.
- 5. For contracts where Insurance Law § 4903(c-1), and Public Health Law § 4903(3-a) are applicable, if trial of preferred drug(s) is the only criterion that is not met for a given condition, and one of the following circumstances can be substantiated by the requesting provider, then trial of the preferred drug(s) will not be required.
  - a. The required prescription drug(s) is (are) contraindicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction or physical or mental harm to the member;

### **Step Therapy Policy**

- b. The required prescription drug is expected to be ineffective based on the known clinical history and conditions and concurrent drug regimen;
- c. The required prescription drug(s) was (were) previously tried while under the current or a previous health plan, or another prescription drug or drugs in the same pharmacologic class or with the same mechanism of action was (were) previously tried and such prescription drug(s) was (were) discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect, or an adverse event;
- d. The required prescription drug(s) is (are) not in the patient's best interest because it will likely cause a significant barrier to adherence to or compliance with the plan of care, will likely worsen a comorbid condition, or will likely decrease the ability to achieve or maintain reasonable functional ability in performing daily activities;
- e. The individual is stable on the requested prescription drug. The medical profile of the individual (age, disease state, comorbidities), along with the rational for deeming stability as it relates to standard medical practice and evidence-based practice protocols for the disease state will be taken into consideration.
- f. The above criteria are not applicable to requests for brand name medications that have an AB rated generic. We can require a trial of an AB-rated generic equivalent prior to providing coverage for the equivalent brand name prescription drug.
- 6. Initial approval will be granted for a period of 1 year.
- 7. In addition to the full prescribing information for each individual drug, the corresponding clinical guidelines (i.e., NCCN, DSM, etc.) are reviewed on an annual basis to determine the appropriateness of the medical necessity criteria that is applied.
- 8. All requests will be reviewed to ensure they are being used for an appropriate indication and may be subject to an off-label review in accordance with our Off-Label Use of FDA Approved Drugs Policy (Pharmacy-32)

#### **UPDATES:**

Date	Revision
04/09/2024	Revised
03/14/2024	Revised
02/08/2024	Revised
01/01/2024	Revised
12/06/2023	Revised
11/30/2023	P&T Committee Approval
11/10/2023	Revised
9/7/2023	Revised
8/10/2023	Revised
7/7/2023	Revised
6/8/2023	Revised
4/24/2023	Revised
4/5/2023	Revised
3/31/2023	Revised
3/16/2023	Revised
2/9/2023	Revised
2/3/2023	Revised
12/20/2022	Revised
12/15/2022	Revised
12/2/22	Revised

11/17/2022	P&T Committee Approval		
11/3/22	Revised		
10/3/22	Revised		
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5/1/2022	Revised		
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2/18/22	Revised		
2/8/22	Revised / P&T Committee Approval		
1/22	Revised		
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11/21	Revised		
10/21	Revised		
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4/21	Revised		
3/21	Revised		
2/11/2021	P&T Committee Approval		
1/21	Revised		
12/20	Revised		
10/20	Revised		
8/2020	Revised		
7/2020	Revised		
6/2020	Revised		
5/2020	Revised		
3/20	Revised		
2/20	Revised		
1/20	Revised		
12/19	Revised		
11/19	Revised		
10/19	Revised		
8/19	Revised		
7/19	Revised		
5/19	P&T Committee Approval		
4/19	Revised		
3/19	Revised		
2/19	Revised		
1/19	Revised		
11/18	Revised		
10/18	Revised		

9/18	Revised			
5/18	Revised			
4/18	Revised			
3/18	Revised			
2/18	Revised			
1/18	Revised- Both STEP Policies combined to one policy The Commercial Open step therapy and Exchange Closed/CHP policies have been merged. The policy has also been changed into a table format with headers that match the web formularies (derived from RxFlex).			
12/17	Revised			
11/2017	P&T Committee Approval			
9/17	Revised			
7/17	Revised			
5/17	Revised			
4/17	Revised			
1/17	Revised			
10/16	Revised			
9/16	Revised			
8/16	Revised			
7/16	Revised			
6/16	Revised			
5/16	Revised			
4/16	Revised			
3/16	Revised			
1/16	Revised			
12/15	Revised			
11/15	Revised			
8/15	Revised			
7/15	Revised			
6/15	Revised			
5/15	Revised			
4/15	Revised			
3/15	Revised			
1/15	Revised			
11/14	Revised			
10/14	Revised			
8/14	Revised			
7/14	Revised			
5/14	Revised			
3/14	Revised			
1/14	Created			