



Pharmacy Benefit Management Implementation

2017 Pharmacy Formulary Considerations

Board of Trustees

North Carolina State Health Plan

 Segal Consulting

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Summary of Findings

- Segal National Pharmacy Benefits Practice reviewed the medications that would be removed if North Carolina State Health Plan (NC SHP) decide to move to a closed formulary.
- The value of moving into a smart formulary management, is to control costs and sustain the pharmacy benefit while protecting member health.
- After review of the exclusions, we find that the formulary will still offer access to safe and effective medications in all therapy classes , which was determined by an independent group of expert health professionals.
- We have prepared a comprehensive review in the following slides detailing what the excluded drugs are used for and the patient impact and whether the drug would typically be identified as acute or chronic
- Communications will be issued to members who attempt to fill a non-covered medication.
- There is also a medical exception criteria that would allow exceptions when medically necessary.
- There may be some areas where you may want to consider grandfathering, like Cancer and/or other sensitive categories.

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Cardiovascular

➤ Blood Pressure

- **Edarbi, Edarbyclor, Teveten** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are other available drugs within the same class that have similar clinical efficacy
 - *Edarbi 83 utilizers; Edarbyclor 160 utilizers*

➤ High Cholesterol—various drug classes to treat high cholesterol

- **Advicor** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because this drug has been removed from the market by FDA
 - *86 utilizers*
- **Altoprev (extended release Lovastatin)** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because lovastatin is available generically; same drug
 - *20 utilizers*
- **Liptruzet (Ezetimibe and Atorvastatin)** (chronic)
 - Atorvastatin is available generically; Zetia (ezetimibe) is also available;
 - *No utilizers*
- **Livalo** (chronic) – Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are many alternative generic drugs and preferred brands that are less costly and have equal efficacy.
 - *972 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Cardiovascular *continued*

➤ Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia

- **Praluent** (PCSK-9 inhibitor)—injectable (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Repatha has similar clinical efficacy. This is a recent deletion to CVS formulary
 - *7 utilizers*

Diabetes

➤ Short acting insulin (injectable) to treat type 1 and type 2 diabetes

- **Apidra** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Novo Nordisc makes equivalent short acting insulin, Novolog.
 - *121 utilizers; NC SHP has a step therapy on this drug*
- **Humalog and Humulin products** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Novo Nordisc makes equivalent products; NC SHP has step therapy to use Novo Nordisc
 - *Humalog products—199 utilizers*
 - *Humulin—66 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Diabetes *continued*

➤ **Injectable for type 2 diabetes (chronic)**

• **Bydureon, Byetta**

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all products are FDA approved for the same indications and work in the body in the same manner
- *Bydureon 313 utilizers; Byetta 282 utilizers*

➤ **Oral for type 2 diabetes (various oral drug classes to treat diabetes) (chronic)**

• **Fortamet, Glumetza, Riomet** (chronic)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all these products are same drug, metformin, just slightly different dosage forms.
- *Fortamet 5 utilizers; Glumetza 315 utilizers; Riomet 7 utilizers*

• **Kazano, Kombiglyze XR, Oseni** (chronic)

- Kazano (combo Alogliptin-metformin) both available generically
- Kombiglyze (combo Saxagliptin-metformin)—Okay to exclude because other drugs in same class have same clinical efficacy
- *Kazano 15 utilizers; Kombiglyze 942 utilizers; Oseni 152 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Diabetes *continued*

➤ Oral for type 2 diabetes (various oral drug classes to treat diabetes)

- **Nesina, Onglyza** (chronic)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because other drugs in same class have same clinical efficacy
- *Onglyze 1056 utilizers*
- *Nesina 11 utilizers ; NC SHP currently has step therapy on Nesina*

- **Invokana, Invokamet** (chronic)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there is no clinical difference among the drugs in this class. They all work the same, lower blood sugar by the same percent and have the same side effects
- *Invokamet 454 utilizers*
- *Invokana 3129 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Diabetes *continued*

- **Diabetic Supplies (strips and tests)—Various brands excluded (chronic)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all blood glucose test strips measure blood sugar in the same manner. **One Touch Lifescan products** are preferred for CVS Health
 - *Accu-chek products (4891 utilizers); Contour Bayer (2419 utilizers), Freestyle products (1905 utilizers)*
 - *Truetest products (241 utilizers); Unitstrip1 (221 utilizers); Bayer products (219 utilizers); Truetrack (163 utilizers); Relion products (110 utilizers); Embrace (94 utilizers); Prodigy products (70 utilizers); Advocate products (59 utilizers); Solus v2 product (43 utilizers); Fora products (42 utilizers); Precision XT products (41 utilizers)*
 - *Various diabetic products utilized by 30 utilizers or less for each product*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Asthma/COPD

- **Aerospan, Alvesco (Asthma) (chronic)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all corticosteroid inhalers carry the same FDA indication for asthma. No generics in this class
 - NCSHP has step therapy in place for this class
 - *Aerospan—11 utilizers; Alvesco—62 utilizers*
- **Symbicort (Asthma/COPD) (chronic)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Inhaled Corticosteroid/beta agonist product. There are now a few like products on the market, with same indications and clinical effectiveness
 - *3080 utilizers*
- **Incruse Ellipta, Tudorza (COPD) (chronic)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are multiple “me too” drugs (anticholinergics). All products are FDA approved for the same indications and work the same way.
 - *Incruse Ellipta 15 utilizers; Tudorza 78 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Asthma/COPD *continued*

- **Ventolin HFA Proventil HFA, Xoponex HFA (Asthma) (acute for typical treatment)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Ventolin HFA, Proventil HFA and Proair HFA are all an inhaled version of the same drug, albuterol.
 - *Xoponex 606 utilizers*

Hepatitis C

- **Viekira Pak (acute for typical treatment)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are now around 5 products with same cure rate and side effects. CVS Health prefers Harvoni and Sovaldi (Gilead products). These products can also be dosed once a day; Viekira pak is multiple daily dosing.
 - *No utilizers*
- **Pegasys (chronic)**
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because PegIntron (peginterferon alpha-2b); Sovaldi are alternatives. American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) does include peginterferon (+Sovaldi + ribavirin) as an alternative regimen option for treatment-naïve patients with HCV genotype 3, 4 and 6 infections. Peginterferon is recommended (+Sovaldi + ribavirin) for treatment-naïve patients with HCV genotype 5 and as an alternate regimen (+ribavirin) for genotype 5.
 - *13 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Erectile Dysfunction

- **Viagra, Levitra** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because NC SHP does not cover ED medications, with the exception of Cialis 5mg for BPH
 - *Viagra 35 utilizers; Levitra 9 utilizers*

Overactive bladder

- **Toviaz (fesoterodine)** (chronic)
 - › Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are other alternatives with same clinical efficacy
 - › *No utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Multiple Sclerosis (Specialty)

- **Avonex, Extavia, Plegridy** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because formulary alternatives are the same exact drug as the excluded drugs; however the alternatives will have different formulations with different dosing schedules but same drug.
 - *Plegridy—5 utilizers; Avonex—92 utilizers; Extavia—1 utilizer*

Osteoarthritis injections

- **Euflexxa, Monovisc, Orthovisc** (acute i.e. Euflexxa once a week shots up to 3)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are 6 manufacturers of these osteoarthritis medications all containing the SAME drug, hyaluronic acid.
 - *Monovisc 1 utilizer*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Testosterone replacement

- **Androgel (testosterone gel), Fortesta, Natesto, Testim, Testosterone Gel 1%, Vogelxo** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are other topical testosterone containing products that are covered under the formulary. There are many different topical forms of testosterone available on the market; gels, solutions patches. All forms contain the same drug, testosterone.
 - *Androgel 1839 utilizers; Natesto 1 utilizer; Testim 44 utilizers*

Growth Hormone (Specialty)

- **Tev-Tropin, Nutropin AQ, Omnitrope, Saizen** (chronic for FDA approved indication i.e. inadequate growth hormone)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all growth hormone products contain the same drug, Somatropin. NC SHP has step therapy in this class currently. Genotropin is an preferred product. CVS Health's preferred products are Humatrope or Norditropin
 - *Genotropin 26 utilizers; Norditropin 56 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Transplant (Specialty)

- **Hecoria** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because this medication has been discontinued by the manufacturer
 - *No utilizers*
- **Prograf** (chronic) Okay to exclude because tacrolimus is an AB rated generic equivalent for brand Prograf.
 - *252 utilizers*

Opioid Induced constipation

- **Relistor** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because they work in the same way in the body. There is no clinical difference between these two products to treat Opioid Induced constipation
 - *Relistor 13 utilizers*

Irritable Bowel Disease – Constipation predominant

- **Amitiza** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Linzess is a formulary alternative that is less expensive brand alternative for same indication.
 - *Amitiza 776 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Kidney disease

- **Fosrenol** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are generic products available to remove phosphate from the body when someone has kidney disease. Fosrenol is a "me too" drug in this class. Fosrenol is FDA approved for same indications as generics in this class. It is available as a chewable tablet, but is much more expensive than generics.
 - *26 utilizers*

Arthritis

- **Pennsaid** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Pennsaid is a topical solution form of a drug called diclofenac. Diclofenac is an anti-inflammatory available generically as an oral tablet and topically as a gel. NC SHP currently has a prior authorization on Pennsaid.
 - *Pennsaid 666 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Muscle Relaxer

- **Amrix** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Amrix is an extended release form of a generic formulary product, cyclobenzaprine. Amrix is dosed once a day; generic cyclobenzaprine is dosed one to three times a day. However, this is not a maintenance medication and should not be taken for longer than 2-3 weeks, so adherence to this product is not paramount.
 - *193 utilizers 193*

Allergies

➤ Allergic reactions

- **AdrenaClick** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are several different products on the market to treat allergic reactions. All products contain the same active ingredient, epinephrine, which come in the same strengths.
 - *No utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Allergies *continued*

➤ Nasal Steroids/ Combinations

- **Dymista, Qnasl, Beconase AQ, Omnaris, Veramyst; Zetonna** (acute and/or seasonally chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all nasal steroid products are FDA approved for the same indication. CVS Health prefers use of generics in this class and has excluded these high cost brands. *Generic alternatives include Flunisolide nasal spray; Fluticasone spray. Less expensive brand alternative is Nasonex.*
 - *Qnasl—398 utilizers; Dymista—720 utilizers; NC SHP has a step therapy on Dymista and Qnasl*
 - *Omnaris—66 utilizers; Veramyst—129 utilizers; Zetonna 31 utilizers*

➤ Allergic Conjunctivitis (Ophthalmic)

- **Lastacaft** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are generically available products and preferred brand products that work the same way in the body to control eye allergies.
 - *172 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Dermatology

➤ Skin Inflammation and Hives

- **Apexicon E, Olux-E** (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Apexicon E and Olux-E are new formulations of the generically available products, which are available as a cream, too. The base or cream in which the drug is incorporated is the only difference between Apexicon E and Olux E and the formulary generics.
- *Apexicon 16 utilizers; Olux-E 3 utilizers*

➤ Rosacea

- **Noritate** (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Noritate is the cream form of a drug called metronidazole. It is available as a 1% cream. There is a generic metronidazole 0.75% cream or 1% gel.
- *48 utilizers*

➤ Actinic keratosis

- **Carac,flourouracil cream** 1% (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are many flourouracil products on the market- various strengths of creams, solutions. All are applied topically and have the same FDA approved indications.
- *Carac 120 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Dermatology *continued*

➤ **Anti-inflammatory**

- **Clobex Spray, Clobetasol Spray** (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because drug is clobetasol, which is available as a cream, ointment, gel, solution, lotion, foam or spray to treat inflammation of the skin. The spray products are the most expensive. Members would still be able to use clobetasol, just another formulation
- *Clobex—26 utilizers*

➤ **Corticosteroid**

- **Rayos** (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Rayos is the extended release dosage form of a drug called prednisone. It is the same drug.
- *20 utilizers*

Ulcerative colitis or Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- **Asacol HD, Delzicol** (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are other effective mesalamine products available. It is the same drug.
- *Asacol 342 utilizers; Delzicol 166 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Sleep

- **Intermezzo** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because the only difference between Intermezzo and generic is that the brand drug is an orally disintegrating tablet. The drug is zolpidem, which is available generically.
 - *11 utilizers*
- **Rozerem** (acute)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are generics that are less costly to help a member sleep
 - *45 utilizers; NC SHP has step therapy on Rozerem*

Depression/Sleep

- **Oleptro** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Oleptro is the extended release version of a generically available drug, trazodone.
 - *Oleptro—2 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Analgesic Combination (pain and inflammation)

- **Duexis, Vimovo** (acute)

- Duexis Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because this is a combination drug that contains both famotidine and ibuprofen, which are available generically as individual drugs.
- Vimovo Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because this is a combination drug that contains both esomeprazole and naproxen, which are available generically as individual drugs.
- *Duexis 33 utilizers; Vimovo 486 utilizers*

Weight Loss

- **Qsymia** (acute)

- Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are other weight loss agents available that are less costly with similar clinical efficacy.
- *863 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Glaucoma

- **Lumigan** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because there are 5 other drugs in the same class to treat glaucoma. All drugs in this class are clinically equal in their eye pressure lowering abilities and side effects.
 - *1421 utilizers*

Rheumatoid Arthritis and other inflammatory conditions (Specialty)

- **Actemra; Kineret; Orencia; Cimzia; Remicade; Simponi; Xeljanz** (chronic)
 - Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because alternative brand name drugs Enbrel and Humira remain the most highly utilized biologic products on the market. Both products come in multiple injection forms to offer flexibility in dosing and administration. Alternative brands provide cost savings.
 - *Kineret 5 utilizers; Actemra 34 utilizers; Orencia 83 utilizers; Cimzia 79 utilizers; Remicade 2 utilizers; Simponi 57 utilizers*

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (Specialty)

- **Adcirca; Revatio, Opsumit** (chronic)
 - Revatio and Adcirca Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because the alternative that is available is sildenafil which is an AB rated generic equivalent for Revatio; for Opsumit preferred brand alternatives are Letairis and Tracleer.
 - *Adcirca 29 utilizers; Revatio 7 utilizers; Opsumit 15 utilizers*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Various Conditions

Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because all of these below medications have **AB rated generics** available as well as other generics within their classes. Generic equivalents are the formulary alternatives. Below is the impact:

- *Abilify (727 utilizers) for bipolar or major depression (chronic)*
- *Actos (7 utilizers) for diabetes (chronic)*
- *Aderall XR (152 utilizers) for ADHD (chronic)*
- *Arthrotec (29 utilizers) for pain (acute)*
- *Exforge (178 utilizers) Atacand (16 utilizers) Cardizem (28 utilizers) Detrol (25 utilizers) Diovan (243 utilizers) Intuniv (48 utilizers) Norvasc (48 utilizers) for hypertension (chronic)*
- *Cymbalta (149 utilizers) for depression (chronic)*
- *Prevacid (507 utilizers); Prevacid (253 utilizers) Protonix (13 utilizers) for ulcer (acute)*
- *Jalyn (106 utilizers) for BPH (chronic)*
- *Lescol (49 utilizers); Lipitor (254 utilizers) Tricor (30 utilizers) for high cholesterol (chronic)*
- *Lunesta (29 utilizers) for sleep (acute)*
- *Naprelan (41 utilizers) for pain (acute)*
- *Oxytrol (18 utilizers); Tovias (138 utilizers) for overactive bladder (chronic)*
- *Plavix (24 utilizers) for stroke (chronic)*
- *Rhinocort (9 utilizers) for allergies (acute)*
- *Valcyte (20 utilizers) for CMV retinitis (chronic)*
- *Valtrex (29 utilizers) for herpes (acute)*
- *Matzim (No utilizers) for hypertension (chronic)*

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Fertility (Specialty)

- **Bravelle**—(acute) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because based on data from a few clinical studies there does not appear to be a significant difference between Menopur or Repronex and Follistim for efficacy or safety. Bravelle is only available in powder form which requires mixing prior to injection and may be more cumbersome for patients.
 - 4 utilizers
- **Gonal F**—(acute) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because based on data from a few clinical studies, there does not appear to be a significant difference between Menopur or Repronex and Follistim for either efficacy or safety.
 - 13 utilizers

Psoriatic Arthritis; Plaque Psoriasis (Specialty)

- **Otezla, Stelara**—(chronic) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because alternative brand name drugs Enbrel and Humira remain the most highly utilized biologic products on the market. Both products come in multiple injection forms to offer flexibility in dosing and administration. Alternative brands provide cost savings.
 - Otezla 141 utilizers
 - Stelara 138 utilizers

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Anemia (Specialty)

- **Procrit**—(chronic) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because alternative drugs available with similar efficacy. The National Kidney Foundation's Clinical Practice Guidelines and Clinical Practice Recommendations for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease recommends either darbepoetin or epoetin for the treatment of anemia in chronic kidney disease when erythropoietin stimulating agents are indicated
 - 13 utilizers

Cancer (Specialty)

- **Tasigna**—(chronic) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Gleevec (imatinib) 400mg once daily is recommended first-line therapy for newly diagnosed CP-CML (leukemia) patients. Based on the FDA approval of Tasigna (nilotinib) and Sprycel (dasatinib), the guidelines also recommend these as first-line therapy options for newly diagnosed patients. Gleevec is now available generically as imatinib.
 - 26 utilizers
- **Xtandi**—(chronic) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Prostate Cancer Practice Guidelines released in 2015 recommend abiraterone and enzalutamide as first-line therapy for patients with asymptomatic, chemotherapy-naïve, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.
 - 36 utilizers

2017 Formulary Exclusions

Opioid Dependence Agents

- **Zubsolv**—(acute) Clinical rationale: Okay to exclude because Zubsolv is a brand name for combination of buprenorphine and naloxone. There are less expensive alternatives. Generic alternative is buprenorphine-naloxone sub-lingual tablet. Brand alternative is Suboxone Film - also a combination of the same drugs - buprenorphine and naloxone.
 - *16 utilizers*