

Blue Medicare Rx Medicare Part D Formulary changes 2010 to 2011

The Medicare Part D annual six-week Open Enrollment Period (OEP) begins November 15, 2010 and ends on December 31, 2010. In mid-October the 2011 Blue MedicareRx, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) Medicare Part D formulary, was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and as with all Medicare Part D drug plans you can expect some changes for 2011. Some of the changes were mandated by CMS (safety concerns, drugs that no longer meet CMS' definition of a 'Part D medication', etc.) but others were a result of dynamic changes in the pharmaceutical marketplace. The Blue MedicareRx 2011's Part D formulary changes include addition of some new drug therapies as well as the migration to some important generic equivalents that became available in 2010.

A copy of 2010 to 2011 formulary changes (i.e. drug removals and new Prior Authorization and Step Therapy utilization management programs) will be included in the Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) that is sent to all current members of HISC's Medicare Part D plans. In addition, individual member letters will be mailed in late November 2010, alerting them of 2011 formulary changes (removals, tier changes, new utilization management programs, etc.) affecting them. Finally a copy of the 2011 formulary is already available on the BCBSTX Provider website www.bcbstx.com/provider in time for the start of the Medicare Part D OEP. Please refer to our list below for a handy reference to the Top 30 medications that will be impacted by a change to the 2011 formulary and therefore, have the most potential to affect current members. Coverage determinations for changes can be submitted by the prescribing physician after December 17, 2010 with an effective date of January 1, 2011.

#	Formulary Change	2010 Tier	2011 Tier	Description of Formulary Change	Formulary Alternative if Applicable
1	acetaminophen w/codeine, acetaminophen / hydrocodone	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
2	ACTOS, ACTOPLUS MET, ACTOPLUS MET XR	2	3	Is on our formulary, but will be covered in a higher cost tier; quantity limit may apply	On formulary, higher tier; quantity limit may apply
3	ARICEPT, ARICEPT ODT	2	3	Is on our formulary, but will be covered in a higher cost tier; quantity limit may apply	On formulary, higher tier; quantity limit may apply
4	AVODART	2	2	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
5	benazepril, benazepril/hydrochlorothiazide	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
6	BENICAR, BENICAR HCT	2	2	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
7	citalopram	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
8	COZAAR tabs, HYZAAR tabs	3	not on formulary, generic(s) available	Is not covered on our 2011 formulary as there are generic equivalents and/or generic alternatives	losartan potassium tabs 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg; losartan/hydrochlorot

				<p>available. When you choose generic drugs, you get prescription medications that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA approved and regulated • Equal to brand-name drugs in terms of safety and effectiveness • Less expensive 	<p>hiazide tabs 50-12.5 mg, 100-12.5 mg, 100-25 mg</p>
9	CYMBALTA	3	3	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
10	DIOVAN, DIOVAN HCT	2	2	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
11	doxazosin, terazosin	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
12	finasteride	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
13	FLOMAX caps 0.4 mg	3	not on formulary, generic(s) available	<p>Is not covered on our 2011 formulary as there are generic equivalents and/or generic alternatives available. When you choose generic drugs, you get prescription medications that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDA approved and regulated • Equal to brand-name drugs in terms of safety and effectiveness • Less expensive 	tamsulosin caps 0.4 mg
14	fluoxetine, fluoxetine DR	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
15	glimepiride	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
16	glipizide, glipizide ER	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
17	glyburide 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg; glyburide/metformin	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
18	lisinopril, lisinopril hydrochlorothiazide	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
19	losartan, losartan hydrochlorothiazide	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
20	metformin, metformin ER	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply

21	MIRTAZAPINE, MIRTAZAPINE ODT	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
22	NAMENDA, NAMENDA TITRATION PAK	2	2	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
23	paroxetine hcl, paroxetine hcl ER	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
24	ramipril	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
25	sertraline	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
26	tamsulosin	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
27	tramadol, tramadol/acetaminophen	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply
28	TRICOR tabs 48 mg, 145 mg	2	3	Is on our formulary, but will be covered in a higher cost tier	On formulary, higher tier
29	XALATAN	2	3	Is on our formulary, but will be covered in a higher cost tier	On formulary, higher tier
30	zolpidem tartrate	1	1	Is on our formulary, however quantity limit may apply	On formulary, quantity limit may apply

posted 11/2010