

BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 2021 STANDARD/VALUE DRUG FORMULARY CHANGES

Blue Shield is committed to covering safe, effective and affordable medications, so we regularly review and update our drug formularies. Our Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee is made up of a group of practicing physicians and pharmacists who meet quarterly to recommend changes to our formulary based on the latest medical literature, new clinical guidelines, new information from key physician experts, and new information from the Food and Drug Administration.

Changes to the Standard/Value Drug Formulary from the February 2021 P&T Committee meeting are outlined below. To view a copy of the Standard/Value Drug Formulary, please [download a copy](#).

The drugs listed below are to be used for FDA-approved indications but may also be used for other conditions.

1. DRUGS ADDED TO FORMULARY

The following drugs were added to the formulary:

Drug	FDA Indication(s)	Coverage Restriction(s)	Tier Status
glucagon emergency kit	Hypoglycemia	Quantity limit	Tier 2
Iclevia	Contraceptive		
icosapent ethyl 1 gm capsule (Vascepa)	Hypertriglyceridemia	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 3
Lyllana	Vasomotor symptoms, Post-menopausal osteoporosis	Quantity limit	Tier 1
Microgestin 24 Fe	Contraceptive		Tier 1
nitazoxanide tablet (Alinia)	Giardiasis, Cryptosporidiosis	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 3
Nymyo	Contraceptive		Tier 1
Zovia 1-35	Contraceptive		Tier 1

2. FORMULARY DRUGS WITH CHANGES TO TIER AND/OR COVERAGE RESTRICTION

The following drugs have coverage restriction(s) added or removed, and/or change of tier status as noted:

Drug	FDA Indication(s)	Coverage Restriction(s)	New Tier Status
Linze ¹	IBS w constipation, Chronic idiopathic constipation	Quantity limit, Add Age-limit	Remains Tier 2
Movantik ¹	Opioid-induced constipation	Quantity limit, Add Age-limit	Remains Tier 3

¹ Effective 3/1/2021

3. DRUGS REMOVED FROM THE FORMULARY

The following brand-name drugs were removed from the formulary because generic is now available and was added to the formulary. Drug removal is effective May 1, 2021.

Brand-name Drug	FDA Indication(s)	Restriction(s)	Alternative(s)
Alinia tablet	Giardiasis, Cryptosporidiosis	Quantity limit	nitazoxanide
Glucagon Emergency Kit (made by Eli Lilly)	Hypoglycemia	Quantity limit	glucagon
Vascepa 1gm	Hypertriglyceridemia	Quantity limit	icosapent ethyl
Zytiga 500mg tablet	Prostate cancer	Quantity limit	abiraterone