

**BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA  
FIRST QUARTER 2021 FORMULARY AND MEDICATION POLICY UPDATES**

**EFFECTIVE MARCH 3, 2021**

*for Large Group, Small Group, and Individual & Family Plans*

The Blue Shield of California (BSC) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, consisting of network physicians and pharmacists, regularly evaluates drugs for formulary inclusion and medication policy coverage criteria. The first quarter 2021 P&T Committee decisions on formulary changes and medication policy changes, which apply to Commercial members with an outpatient drug benefit, are summarized below:

**PHARMACY BENEFIT FORMULARY UPDATE:**

Please refer to the appropriate drug formulary posted on our website for the following information:

- Quantity limits, if applicable, for specific drugs
- Formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs. *Note:* The formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs will have the same formulary status as the existing strengths unless otherwise noted.
- Non-formulary and non-preferred generic drugs that do not require prior authorization or step therapy
- Brand-name medications that are now non-formulary or non-preferred because these medications have newly available generic equivalents covered on the formulary

Formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](http://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select the appropriate drug formulary – “Standard Drug Formulary”, “Value Drug Formulary”, or “Plus Drug Formulary”.

Summary of changes to the Medicare formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](http://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select “Medicare Drug Formulary”, then select the appropriate plan, and the corresponding “Summary of Changes” PDF.

**NEW GENERICS with RESTRICTIONS**

The following drugs are newly available **GENERIC** drugs that were **ADDED to the Standard/Value and Plus Drug Formulary** with coverage restrictions:

| Drug                                   | FDA Indication(s)             | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| icosapent ethyl 1 gm capsule (Vascepa) | Hypertriglyceridemia          | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| nitazoxanide tablet (Alinia)           | Giardiasis, Cryptosporidiosis | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

The following drugs are newly available **GENERIC** drugs that were **ADDED to the Plus Drug Formulary** with coverage restrictions:

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)       | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| meloxicam submicronized (Vivlodex) <sup>1</sup> | Osteoarthritis          | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| rufinamide (Banzel)                             | Lennox-Gastaut syndrome | Step therapy, Quantity limit        |
| tavaborole (Kerydin) <sup>1</sup>               | Onychomycosis           | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

<sup>1</sup>.Applies to Grandfather plans

**DRUGS ADDED to the BLUE SHIELD SPECIALTY TIER**

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the Blue Shield Specialty Tier (Tier 4) for the Plus Drug Formulary:

- Refer to member benefit summary for applicable member share of cost.

| Specialty Drug                    | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Alkindi Sprinkle <sup>2</sup>     | Adrenal insufficiency  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Imcivree                          | Obesity  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Nyvepria                          | Chemotherapy- induced neutropenia                              | Prior authorization                 |
| Orgovyx                           | Prostate cancer  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Orladeyo                          | Hereditary angioedema  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Qdolo <sup>2</sup>                | Pain   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Reditrex                          | Rheumatoid arthritis, Psoriasis, Juvenile idiopathic arthritis | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Reltone <sup>2</sup>              | Gallstones   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| tavaborole (Kerydin) <sup>2</sup> | Onychomycosis  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Trianz <sup>2</sup>               | Prenatal vitamin   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Wynzora <sup>2</sup>              | Plaque psoriasis   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Zokinvy                           | Progeria   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

2. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans.

**EXISTING DRUGS with CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS**

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Standard/Value** and **Plus** formularies:

| Drug     | FDA Indication(s)                                 | Coverage Restriction(s)   |
|----------|---|---------------------------|
| Linzess  | IBS-constipation, Chronic idiopathic constipation | Age-limit, Quantity limit |
| Movantik | Opioid-induced constipation                       | Age-limit, Quantity limit |

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus Drug Formulary**:

| Drug                                    | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Amicar <sup>3</sup>                     | Hemorrhage        |                         |
| aminocaproic acid (Amicar) <sup>3</sup> | Hemorrhage        |                         |

**DRUGS ADDED to FORMULARY**

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Standard/Value** and **Plus Drug Formularies** as noted:

| Drug              | FDA Indication(s)                                | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Iclevia           | Prevent pregnancy                                |                         |
| Lyllana           | Vasomotor symptoms, Post-menopausal osteoporosis | Quantity limit          |
| Microgestin 24 Fe | Prevent pregnancy                                |                         |
| Nymyo             | Prevent pregnancy                                |                         |
| Zovia 1-35        | Prevent pregnancy                                |                         |

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Plus Drug Formularies** as noted:

| Drug                                  | FDA Indication(s)               | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| asenapine (Saphris)                   | Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder | Quantity limit                      |
| Gemmily                               | Prevent pregnancy               |                                     |
| ivemectin (Sklice)                    | Head lice                       |                                     |
| Merzee                                | Prevent pregnancy               |                                     |
| timolol maleate/pf (Timoptic Ocudose) | Glaucoma                        |                                     |
| tolvaptan 15mg tablet (Samsca)        | Hyponatremia                    | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

**MEDICAL BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

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Refer to medication policy for complete details. For description of change, refer to top of medication policy.

For additional information, please call 1-800-535-9481

| <b>New Policies</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danyelza (naxitamab-gqgk)</li> <li>• Incivree (setmelanotide)</li> <li>• Oxlumo (lumosiran)</li> </ul>                                      |
| <b>Updated Policies</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actemra (tocilizumab)</li> <li>• Abilify Maintena (aripiprazole)</li> <li>• Alimta (pemetrexed)</li> <li>• Arcalyst (rilonacept)</li> </ul> |

- Aristada (aripiprazole)
- Aristada Initio (aripiprazole lauroxil)
- Belrapzo (bendamustine)
- Bendeka (bendamustine)
- Benlysta (belimumab)
- Cinryze (C-1 esterase Inhibitor, human)
- Darzalex (daratumumab)
- Darzalex Faspro (daratumumab and hyaluronidase-fihj)
- Difitelio (defibrotide)
- Dupixent (dupilumab)
- Enbrel (etanercept)
- Forteo (teriparatide)
- Gazyva (obinutuzumab)
- Genotropin (somatropin)
- Haegarda (C-1 esterase Inhibitor, human)
- Herceptin (trastuzumab) \*
- Humatrope (somatropin)
- Imfinzi (durvalumab)
- Invega Sustenna (paliperidone)
- Invega Trinza (paliperidone)
- Kadcylla (ado-trastuzumab)
- Keytruda (pembrolizumab)
- Kineret (anakinra)
- Norditropin (somatropin)
- NutropinAQ (somatropin)
- Omnitrope (somatropin)
- Opdivo (nivolumab)
- Orenzia (abatacept)
- Perjeta (pertuzumab)
- Perseris (risperidone)
- Proleukin (aldesleukin)
- Reblozyl (luspatercept-aamt)
- Remicade (infliximab)\*
- Risperdal Consta (risperidone)
- Rituxan (rituximab)\*
- Saizen (somatropin)
- Takhzyro (lanadelumab-flyo)
- Treanda (bendamustine)
- Unituxin (dinutuximab)
- Xolair (omalizumab)
- Yervoy (ipilimumab)
- Yondelis (trabectedin)
- Zomacton (somatropin)
- Zyprexa Relprevv (olanzapine)

\*Includes biosimilars

### **PHARMACY BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

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**New Policies**

- Alkindi (hydrocortisone)
- Eysuvis (loteprednol)
- Impeklo (clobetasol)
- Orgovyx (relugolix)
- Orladeyo (berotralstat)
- Qdolo (tramadol)
- RediTrex (methotrexate)
- Reltone (ursodiol)
- Sutab (sodium sulfate/magnesium sulfate/potassium chloride)
- Trinaz (PNV #162/Fe/Folate)
- Winlevi (clascoterone)
- Wyzora (calcipotriene/betamethasone)
- Zokinvy (lonafarnib)

**Updated Policies**

- Adlyxin (lixisenatide)
- Amitiza (lubiprostone)
- Ampyra (dalfampridine)
- Bydureon (exenatide)
- Byetta (exenatide)
- Calquence (acalabrutinib)
- Caplyta (lumateperone)
- Caprelsa (vandetanib)
- Elidel (pimecrolimus)
- Entocort EC (budesonide)
- Gavreto (pralsetinib)
- Gleevac (imatinib)
- Fanapt (iloperidone)
- Hetlioz (tasimelteon)
- Imbruvica (ibrutinib)
- Jakafi (ruxolitinib)
- Janumet (sitagliptin/metformin)
- Janumet XR (sitagliptin/metformin ER)
- Januvia (sitagliptin)
- Jentadueto (linagliptin/metformin)
- Jentadueto XR (linagliptin/metformin ER)
- Kazano (alogliptin/metformin)
- Kombiglyze XR (saxagliptin/metformin)
- Latuda (lurasidone)
- Lenvima (lenvatinib)
- Migranal NS (dihydroergotamine)
- Nerlynx (neratinib)
- Nesina (alogliptin)
- Ofev (nintedanib)
- Onglyza (saxagliptin)
- Oseni (alogliptin/pioglitazone)
- Ortikos (budesonide)
- Ozempic (semaglutide)
- Protopic (tacrolimus)
- Qtern (dapagliflozin/saxagliptin)
- Regranex (becaplermin)
- Rexulti (brexpiprazole)
- Rybelsus (semaglutide)
- Rydapt (midostaurin)
- Saphris (asenapine)
- Saxenda (liraglutide)

- Secuado (asenapine)
- Soliqua (lixisenatide/glargine)
- Steglujan (ertugliflozin/sitagliptin)
- Sutent (sunitinib)
- Tagrisso (osimertinib)
- Tanzeum (albiglutide)
- Tradjenta (linagliptin)
- Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor)
- Trulicity (dulaglutide)
- Uceris (budesonide)
- Venclexta (venetoclax)
- Victoza (liraglutide)
- Vimpat (lacosamide)
- Vraylar (cariprazine)
- Xalkori (crizotinib)
- Xifaxan (rifaximin)
- Xiidra (lifitegrast)
- Xultophy (liraglutide/degludec)
- Zytiga (abiraterone)

**Retired Policies**

- Daklinza (daclatasvir)<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Product discontinued

**BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA  
SECOND QUARTER 2021 FORMULARY AND MEDICATION POLICY UPDATES**

**EFFECTIVE JUNE 2, 2021**

*for Large Group, Small Group, and Individual & Family Plans*

The Blue Shield of California (BSC) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, consisting of network physicians and pharmacists, regularly evaluates drugs for formulary inclusion and medication policy coverage criteria. The second quarter 2021 P&T Committee decisions on formulary changes and medication policy changes, which apply to Commercial members with an outpatient drug benefit, are summarized below:

**PHARMACY BENEFIT FORMULARY UPDATE:**

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Formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](http://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select the appropriate drug formulary – “Standard Drug Formulary”, “Value Drug Formulary”, or “Plus Drug Formulary”.

Summary of changes to the Medicare formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](http://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select “Medicare Drug Formulary”, then select the appropriate plan, and the corresponding “Summary of Changes” PDF.

**NEW GENERICS with RESTRICTIONS**

The following drugs are newly available **GENERIC** drugs that were **ADDED only to the Plus Drug Formulary** with coverage restrictions:

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s)                         | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| brinzolamide 1% ophthalmic suspension (Azopt)            | Glaucoma                                  | Step therapy                        |
| hydrocodone bitartrate tablet (Hysingla ER) <sup>1</sup> | Pain                                      | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| imiquimod 3.75% cream packet (Zyclara) <sup>1</sup>      | Actinic keratosis, External genital warts | Step therapy, Quantity limit        |

*1. Applies only to Grandfathered plans*

**DRUGS ADDED to the BLUE SHIELD SPECIALTY TIER**

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the Blue Shield Specialty Tier (Tier 4) **only for the Plus Drug Formulary:**

- Refer to member benefit summary for applicable member share of cost.

| Specialty Drug       | FDA Indication(s)      | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bronchitol           | Cystic fibrosis        | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| droxidopa (Northera) | Neurogenic orthostatic | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

| Specialty Drug  | FDA Indication(s)                           | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
|   | hypotension                                 |                                     |
| Elepsia XR <sup>2</sup>   | Partial seizures                            | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Fortivda  | Renal cell carcinoma                        | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Hetlioz LQ  | Smith-Magenis Syndrome                      | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| hydrocodone bitartrate 80mg, 100mg, 120mg tablet (Hysingla ER) <sup>2</sup> | Pain  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Klisyri <sup>2</sup>  | Actinic keratosis                           | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Lupkynis  | Lupus nephritis                             | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Ponvory   | Multiple sclerosis                          | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Tepmetko  | Non-small cell lung cancer                  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Ukoniq  | Marginal zone lymphoma, Follicular lymphoma | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Xeljanz oral solution   | Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Xolair syringe  | Asthma, Nasal polyps, Chronic urticaria     | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

2. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

#### EXISTING DRUGS with CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus and Standard/Value formularies**:

| Drug                                | FDA Indication(s)                           | Coverage Restriction(s)                        |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Adzenys ER, Adzenys XR-ODT          | ADHD  | Prior authorization, Age-limit, Quantity limit |
| amphetamine er 1.25mg/ml suspension |   |  |
| Mydayis                             |   |  |
| Qullivant XR                        |   |  |
| Baqsimi                             | Hypoglycemia                                | Quantity limit                                 |
| Estring                             | Vulvar and vaginal atrophy due to menopause |  |
| solifenacin succinate (Vesicare)    | Overactive bladder                          |  |

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus formulary**:

| Drug                     | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Gvoke Hypopen, Gvoke PFS | Hypoglycemia       | Quantity limit          |
| Vesicare                 | Overactive bladder |                         |



**DRUGS MOVED to a DIFFERENT TIER**

The following drugs were **moved to a higher or lower tier** for the **Plus Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s) | New Tier Status for Plus Formulary   |
|--|-------------------|--|
| calcipotriene-betamethasone propionate topical suspension (Taclonex) | Plaque psoriasis  | Tier 1 with Prior authorization <sup>1</sup><br>Tier 3 with Prior authorization <sup>2</sup> |

1. Applies only to Grandfathered plans; 2. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

**DRUGS ADDED to FORMULARY**

The following drugs were **ADDED to the Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies** as noted:

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| entricitabine-tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Truvada) | HIV infection     |                         |
| Entresto  | Heart failure     | Quantity limit          |
| Zafemy  | Contraceptive     |                         |

The following drugs were **ADDED only to the Standard/Value Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s)   | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Repatha, Repatha Sureclick, Repatha Pushtronix | Prevent cardiovascular events, Hyperlipidemia, Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Xeljanz oral solution                          | Polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis   |                                     |

**MEDICAL BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

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Refer to medication policy for complete details. For description of change, refer to top of medication policy.

For additional information, please call 1-800-535-9481

**New Policies**

- Abecma (idecabtagene vicleucel)
- Amondys 45 (casimersen)
- Breyanzi (lisocabtagene maraleucel)
- Cabenuva (cabotegravir ER; rilpivirine ER)
- Cosela (trilaciclib)
- Evkeeza (evinacumab-dgnb)
- Margenza (margetuximab-cmkb)
- Nulibry (fosdenopterin)

- Pepaxto (melphalan flufenamide)

**Updated Policies**

- Actemra (tocilizumab)
- Arcalyst (rilonacept)
- Cancidas (caspofungin)
- Clolar (clofarabine)
- Cresemba (isavuconazonium)
- Enhertu (fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki)
- Eraxis (anidulafungin)
- Exondys 51 (etepiirsen)
- Fabrazyme (agalsidase beta)
- Herceptin Hylecta (trastuzumab and hyaluronidase-oysk)
- Imfinzi (durvalumab)
- Kadcyca (ado-trastuzumab)
- Keytruda (pembrolizumab)
- Kyprolis (carfilzomib)
- Libtayo (cemiplimab-rwlc)
- Mycamine (micafungin)
- Mylotarg (gemtuzumab ozogamicin)
- Opdivo (nivolumab)
- Perjeta (pertuzumab)
- Phesgo (pertuzumab, trastuzumab, and hyaluronidase-zzxf)
- Praluent (alirocumab)
- Repatha (evolocumab)
- Sarclisa (isatuximab-irfc)
- Tecentriq (atezolizumab)
- Trastuzumab containing agents (Herceptin, Kanjinti, Ogivri, Ontruzant, Herzuma, Trazimera)
- Trodelvy (sacituzumab govitecan-hziy)
- Tyvaso (treprostinil)
- Yescarta (axicabtagene ciloleucel)

**PHARMACY BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

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Refer to medication policy for complete details.

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**New Policies**

- Bronchitol (mannitol)
- Elepsia XR (levetiracetam)
- Fotivda (tivozanib)
- Gemtesa (vibegron)
- Hetlioz LQ (tasimelteon) suspension
- Klisyri (firbanibulin)
- Lupkynis (voclosporin)
- Ponvory (ponesimod)
- Pregen DHA (PNV/FE carbonyl/Folate/DHA)
- Tepmetko (tepotinib)
- Ukoniq (umbralisib)
- Verquvo (vericiguat)

- Vesicare LS (solifenacin) suspension
- Xeljanz (tofacitinib) solution

### **Updated Policies**

- Alinia (nitazoxanide)
- Ayvakit (avapritinib)
- Belsomra (suvorexant)
- Bidil (isosorbide dinitrate/ hydralazine)
- Bosulif (bosutinib)
- Carbaglu (carglumic acid)
- Clindamycin agents (Clindagel)
- Cresemba (isavuconazonium)
- Darifenacin Hydrobromide ER (Enablex)
- Daurismo (glasdegib)
- Dayvigo (lemborexant)
- Emverm (mebendazole)
- Erivedge (vismodegib)
- Hepatitis C Virus
- Galafold (migalastat)
- Gelnique (oxybutynin chloride)
- Gocovri (amantadine extended-release)
- Iclusig (ponatinib)
- Icosapentyl ethyl (Vascepa)
- Idhifa (Enasidenib)
- imatinib (Gleevec)
- Insulin delivery devices (Inpen for Humalog)
- Inrebic (fedratinib)
- Jakafi (ruxolitinib)
- Juxtapid (lomitapide)
- Lorbrena (lorlatinib)
- Lynparza (olaparib)
- Mepron (atovaquone suspension)
- metformin containing agents ER (Riomet/Riomet ER)
- Micort-HC (hydrocortisone acetate)
- Myrbetriq (mirabegron ER)
- Nexavar (sorafenib)
- Odomzo (sonidegib)
- Ofev (nintedanib)
- Osmolex ER (amantadine ER)
- Oxytrol patch (oxybutynin)
- Pemazyre (pemigatinib)
- Pomalyst (pomalidomide)
- ramelteon (Rozerem)
- Rhofade (oxymetazoline HCl)
- SGLT-2 inhibitors
- Stendra (avanafil)
- Sutent (sunitinib)
- Rubraca (rucaparib)
- Rydapt (midostaurin)
- Sprycel (dasatinib)
- Stivarga (regorafenib)
- Synarel (nafarelin)
- tolterodine tartrate (Detrol, Detrol LA)
- Toviaz (fesoterodine fumarate ER)
- Taclonex (calcipotriene/betamethasone)
- Tassigna (nilotinib)

- Tibsovo (ivosidenib)
- Vardenafil (Levitra, Staxyn ODT)
- Veregen (sinecatechins)
- Xifaxan (rifaximin)
- Xospata (gilteritinib)
- Zejula (niraparib)
- Zyclara (imiquimod)

**Retired Policies**

- Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan)

**BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA**  
**SECOND QUARTER 2021 FORMULARY AND MEDICATION POLICY UPDATES**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022**

*for Large Group, Small Group, and Individual & Family Plans*

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**DRUGS REMOVED from FORMULARY**

The following drug(s) are **no longer covered on the Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies** because it is available without a prescription.

| Drug                                     | FDA Indication(s)  | Alternative(s)                                |
|--|--|---|
| Iansoprazole 15mg ODT (Prevacid Solutab) | Duodenal ulcer, H. Pylori, Gastric ulcer, GERD, Erosive esophagitis, Hypersecretory conditions | omeprazole capsule, lansoprazole 30mg capsule |
| Prevacid Solutab 15mg ODT                |  |   |

The following drug(s) were **removed from the Standard/Value Drug Formularies.**

- These drugs require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage at Tier 3 unless noted otherwise.

| Drug                       | FDA Indication(s)                           | Alternative(s)        |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Granix <sup>3</sup>        | Neutropenia                                 | Zarxio                |
| Levemir, Levemir Flextouch | Diabetes                                    | Lantus                |
| mupirocin 2% cream         | Secondarily infected traumatic skin lesions | mupirocin 2% ointment |
| Picato                     | Actinic keratosis                           | imiquimod 5% cream    |
| Qvar MDI                   | Asthma                                      | Qvar Redihaler        |

3. Non-formulary drugs that meet the Tier 4 description require a medical necessity exception to be covered at the Tier 4 share of cost.

The following drug(s) were moved to the non-formulary tier or removed from the Plus Formulary.

- These drugs are available at the non-formulary, Tier 3, copayment when prior authorization is approved unless noted otherwise.

| Drug     | FDA Indication(s) | Restriction(s) | Alternative(s)            |
|----------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Picato   | Actinic keratosis | Quantity limit | imiquimod 5% cream, Tolak |
| Qvar MDI | Asthma, COPD      | Quantity limit | Qvar Redihaler            |

**EXISTING DRUGS with CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS**

The following drugs have no change in formulary status, but have modification to restrictions as noted for the Plus and Standard/Value formularies:

| Drug                                       | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Acuvail                                    | Cataract surgery   | Quantity limit                      |
| desloratadine 5mg tablet (Clarinet)        | Allergic rhinitis, Chronic idiopathic urticaria  |                                     |
| ibandronate 150mg tablet (Boniva)          | Postmenopausal osteoporosis  | Quantity limit                      |
| Intron A                                   | Hairy cell leukemia, Malignant melanoma, Follicular Lymphoma, Condylomata acuminata, AIDS-related kaposi's sarcoma, Chronic Hep C, Chronic Hep B |                                     |
| methylergonovine tablet, Methergine tablet | Postpartum bleeding  | Quantity limit                      |
| Peg-Intron, Peg-Intron Redipen             | Chronic hepatitis C  |                                     |
| tramadol er tablet (Ultram ER)             | Pain   | Quantity limit                      |
| tramadol er tablet, biphasic (Ryzolt)      |  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

The following drugs have no change in formulary status, but have modification to restrictions as noted for the Plus formulary:

| Drug                 | FDA Indication(s)                               | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Altprev <sup>1</sup> | Coronary heart disease, Hyperlipidemia          | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Boniva               | Postmenopausal osteoporosis                     | Quantity limit                      |
| Cipro HC             | Otitis externa                                  | Step therapy                        |
| Clarinet             | Allergic rhinitis, Chronic idiopathic urticaria |                                     |

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Conzip  | Pain   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| DDAVP Rhinal Tube   | Diabetes insipidus   | Prior authorization                 |
| erythromycin base film coated tablet 250mg, 500mg   | Bacterial infection  |                                     |
| erythromycin base, ery-tab delayed release tablet 250mg, 333mg, 500mg                                   |  |                                     |
| ethacrynic acid (Edecrin) <sup>1</sup>  | Edema  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Edecrin <sup>1</sup>  |  |                                     |
| Ezallor Sprinkle  | Hypertriglyceridemia, Hyperlipoproteinemia, Hypercholesterolemia | Quantity limit                      |
| Migergot rectal suppository <sup>1</sup>  | Headache   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Nayzilam <sup>1</sup>   | Seizure clusters   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Valtoco <sup>1</sup>  |  |                                     |
| Norgesic Forte <sup>1</sup><br>orphenadrine-asa-caffeine <sup>1</sup><br>Orphengesic Forte <sup>1</sup> | Musculoskeletal pain   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Silenor   | Insomnia   | Step therapy, Quantity limit        |
| Sylatron  | Melanoma   |                                     |
| timolol maleate 0.5% ophthalmic solution, pf (Timoptic Ocudose)   | Glaucoma   | Step therapy                        |
| Timoptic Ocudose 0.5%   |  |                                     |

<sup>1</sup>. Applies only to Grandfathered plans

### DRUGS MOVED to a DIFFERENT TIER

The following drugs were moved to a higher or lower tier for the Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies as noted:

| Drug                               | FDA Indication(s)   | New Tier Status for both Formularies     |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| risedronate (Actonel) <sup>2</sup> | Postmenopausal osteoporosis, Glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis, Osteoporosis in men | Tier 2 with Step therapy, Quantity limit |
| risedronate (Atelvia) <sup>2</sup> | Postmenopausal osteoporosis   |  |

<sup>2</sup>. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

The following drugs were moved to a higher or lower tier for the Standard/Value Drug Formularies as noted:

| Drug                               | FDA Indication(s) | New Tier Status for Standard Formulary |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| cromolyn sodium nebulizer solution | Asthma            | Tier 3 with Quantity limit             |

|                                  |          |        |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| diphenylate-atropine oral liquid | Diarrhea | Tier 2 |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|

The following drugs were moved to a higher or lower tier for the Plus Drug Formulary as noted:

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)  | New Tier Status for Plus Formulary              |
|---|--|---|
| Abstral <sup>2</sup>  | Pain   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| hydrocodone bitartrate 60mg tablet <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| Hysingla ER 60mg <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| Lazanda <sup>2</sup>  |  |   |
| Subsys <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| hydromorphone 1mg/ml oral solution <sup>2</sup>   |  | Tier 2 with Quantity limit                      |
| hydromorphone 1mg/ml rectal suppository <sup>2</sup>  |  | Tier 2 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| morphine sulfate er capsule (Avinza) <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| morphine sulfate er capsule (Kadian) <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| tramadol er capsule (Conzip)  | Tier 3 with Prior authorization  |   |
| diclofenac epolamine 1.3% patch (Flector) <sup>2</sup>  | Minor strains, sprains, and contusions   | Tier 2 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| meloxicam (Vivlodex) <sup>2</sup>   | Osteoarthritis   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Vivlodex <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| naproxen 125mg/5ml oral suspension (Naprosyn) <sup>2</sup>  | RA, OA, Ankylosing spondylitis, pJIA, Tendonitis, Bursitis, Acute gout, Pain, Dysmenorrhea     | Tier 4 with Prior authorization                 |
| Naprosyn 125mg/5ml oral suspension <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| Norgesic Forte <sup>2</sup><br>orphenadrine-asa-caffeine <sup>2</sup><br>Orphengesic Forte <sup>2</sup> | Musculoskeletal pain   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| alose tron (Lotronex) <sup>2</sup>  | Diarrhea-predominant IBS   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization                 |
| Lotronex <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |
| diphenylate-atropine 2.5mg-0.025mg/5ml oral liquid <sup>2</sup>   | Diarrhea   | Tier 2  |
| amoxicillin-clarithromycin-lansoprazole (Prevpac) <sup>2</sup>  | H. Pylori  | Tier 2 with Quantity limit                      |
| lansoprazole 30mg ODT (Prevacid) <sup>2</sup>   | Duodenal ulcer, H. Pylori, Gastric ulcer, GERD, Erosive esophagitis, Hypersecretory conditions | Tier 2 with Step therapy                        |
| Altoprev <sup>2</sup>   | Coronary heart disease, Hyperlipidemia   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| aspirin-omeprazole (Yosprala) <sup>2</sup>  | Prevent cardiovascular and cerebrovascular events and gastric ulcer                            | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Yosprala <sup>2</sup>   |  |   |



| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)   | New Tier Status for Plus Formulary   |
|---|---|--|
| carvedilol er capsule (Coreg CR) <sup>2</sup>   | Heart failure, Hypertension, Left ventricular dysfunction         | Tier 2 with Step therapy   |
| Inderal XL, Innopran XL   | Hypertension  | Tier 3 with Prior authorization <sup>1</sup><br>Tier 4 with Prior authorization <sup>2</sup>                   |
| ethacrynic acid (Edecrin) <sup>2</sup>  | Edema   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization,<br>Quantity limit   |
| Edecrin <sup>2</sup>  |   |  |
| cinacalcet (Sensipar) <sup>2</sup>  | Hyperparathyroidism,<br>Hypercalcemia                             | Tier 4 with Prior authorization  |
| Sensipar <sup>2</sup>   |   |  |
| doxepin 3mg, 6mg tablet (Silenor)   | Insomnia  | Tier 1 with Step therapy, Quantity limit <sup>1</sup><br>Tier 2 with Step therapy, Quantity limit <sup>2</sup> |
| quazepam  |   | Tier 3 with Quantity limit   |
| Alomide   | Vernal keratoconjunctivitis                                       | Tier 3   |
| Blephamide S.O.P. ointment  | Steroid responsive eye conditions at risk for bacterial infection | Tier 3   |
| FML 0.1% ophthalmic ointment  | Steroid responsive eye disorders                                  | Tier 3   |
| halobetasol 0.05% foam <sup>2</sup>   | Plaque psoriasis  | Tier 4 with Prior authorization,<br>Quantity limit   |
| Lexette <sup>2</sup>  |   |  |
| Taclonex topical suspension <sup>2</sup>  |   | Tier 4 with Prior authorization  |
| Epiduo Forte  | Acne vulgaris   | Tier 3 with Step therapy, Age-limit  |
| naftifine 1% cream <sup>2</sup> ,<br>naftifine 1% gel <sup>2</sup> ,<br>naftifine 2% cream <sup>2</sup> | Tinea pedis, Tinea cruris, Tinea corporis                         | Tier 2 with Step therapy   |
| imiquimod 3.75% cream (Zyclara) <sup>2</sup>  | Actinic keratosis, External genital warts                         | Tier 4 with Step therapy, Quantity limit   |
| Zyclara 3.75% cream <sup>2</sup>  |   |  |
| Zyclara 2.5% cream <sup>2</sup>   | Actinic keratosis   | Tier 4 with Step therapy, Quantity limit   |
| Veregen <sup>2</sup>  | Genital and perianal warts  | Tier 4 with Step therapy, Quantity limit   |
| Condylox 0.5% gel   | Anogenital warts  | Tier 3 with Step therapy <sup>1</sup><br>Tier 4 with Step therapy <sup>2</sup>                                 |
| Millipred, Millipred DP   | Steroid responsive disorders                                      | Tier 3 with Prior authorization  |
| Nayzilam <sup>2</sup>   | Seizure clusters  | Tier 4 with Prior authorization,<br>Quantity limit   |
| Valtoco <sup>2</sup>  |   |  |
| Migergot rectal suppository <sup>2</sup>  | Headache  | Tier 3 with Prior authorization,<br>Quantity limit   |
| Onsetra Xsail <sup>2</sup>  | Migraine  | Tier 4 with Prior authorization,   |

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)                    | New Tier Status for Plus Formulary              |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Zembrace Symtouch <sup>2</sup>  |                                      | Quantity limit                                  |
| Inpen <sup>2</sup>  | Diabetes                             | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| pioglitazone-glimepiride (Duetact) <sup>2</sup>                         |                                      | Tier 2 with Step therapy, Quantity limit        |
| Sancuso <sup>2</sup>  | Chemotherapy induced nausea/vomiting | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| cromolyn sodium nebulizer solution <sup>2</sup>                         | Asthma                               | Tier 2 with Quantity limit                      |
| terbutaline sulfate tablet <sup>2</sup>                                 | Asthma, COPD                         | Tier 2  |
| varafenafil (Levitra) <sup>2</sup><br>varafenafil (Staxyn) <sup>2</sup> | Erectile dysfunction                 | Tier 2 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Xerese <sup>2</sup>   | Herpes labialis (cold sores)         | Tier 4 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

1. Applies only to Grandfathered plans; 2. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

**DRUGS ADDED to FORMULARY**

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Standard/Value Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Carbaglu  | Hyperammonemia   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| erythromycin base film coated tablet 250mg, 500mg                     | Bacterial infection  |                                     |
| erythromycin base, ery-tab delayed release tablet 250mg, 333mg, 500mg |  |                                     |
| Imbruvica   | Mantle cell lymphoma, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Small lymphocytic lymphoma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia, Marginal zone lymphoma, cGVHD | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Mekinist  | Melanoma, NSCLC, Thyroid cancer  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Odomzo  | Basal cell carcinoma   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Orenitram   | Pulmonary arterial hypertension  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Phospholine iodide  | Glaucoma, Estropia   |                                     |

**BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA**  
**THIRD QUARTER 2021 FORMULARY AND MEDICATION POLICY UPDATES**

**EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021**

*for Large Group, Small Group, and Individual & Family Plans*

The Blue Shield of California (BSC) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, consisting of network physicians and pharmacists, regularly evaluates drugs for formulary inclusion and medication policy coverage criteria. The third quarter 2021 P&T Committee decisions on formulary changes and medication policy changes, which apply to Commercial members with an outpatient drug benefit, are summarized below:

**PHARMACY BENEFIT FORMULARY UPDATE:**

Please refer to the appropriate drug formulary posted on our website for the following information:

- Quantity limits, if applicable, for specific drugs
- Formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs. *Note:* The formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs will have the same formulary status as the existing strengths unless otherwise noted.
- Non-formulary and non-preferred generic drugs that do not require prior authorization or step therapy
- Brand-name medications that are now non-formulary or non-preferred because these medications have newly available generic equivalents covered on the formulary

Formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](http://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select the appropriate drug formulary – “Standard Drug Formulary”, “Value Drug Formulary”, or “Plus Drug Formulary”.

Summary of changes to the Medicare formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](http://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select “Medicare Drug Formulary”, then select the appropriate plan, and the corresponding “Summary of Changes” PDF.

**DRUGS REMOVED from FORMULARY**

The following drug(s) were **removed from the Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies.**

- These drugs require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage at Tier 3 unless noted otherwise.

| Drug                    | FDA Indication(s) | Alternative(s)            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Ribasphere <sup>1</sup> | Hepatitis C       | ribavirin tablet, capsule |

*1. effective 5/2021*

**NEW GENERICS with RESTRICTIONS**

The following drugs are **newly available GENERIC** drugs that were **ADDED only to the Plus Drug Formulary** with coverage restrictions:

| Drug                                     | FDA Indication(s)                                      | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| clemastine 0.67mg/5ml syrup <sup>2</sup> | Allergic rhinitis, Urticaria, Angioedema               | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| pregabalin er tablet (Lyrica CR)         | Diabetic peripheral neuropathy, Postherpetic neuralgia | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| rufinamide (Banzel)                      | Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome                                | Step therapy, Quantity limit        |

*2. Applies only to Grandfathered plans*

## DRUGS ADDED to the BLUE SHIELD SPECIALTY TIER

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the Blue Shield Specialty Tier (Tier 4) **only for the Plus Drug Formulary:**

- Refer to member benefit summary for applicable member share of cost.

| Specialty Drug                           | FDA Indication(s)   | Coverage Restriction(s)             |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| calcitonin inj (Miacalcin) <sup>3</sup>  | Paget's disease, Hypercalcemia, Postmenopausal osteoporosis |                                     |
| clemastine 0.67mg/5ml syrup <sup>3</sup> | Allergic rhinitis, Urticaria, Angioedema                    | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Empaveli                                 | Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria                         | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Exervan                                  | Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis                               | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Lumakras                                 | Non-small cell lung cancer                                  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Myfembree <sup>3</sup>                   | Fibroids  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| tiopronin (Thiola)                       | Cystinuria  | Prior authorization                 |
| Truseltiq                                | Cholangiocarcinoma  | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| Wegovy                                   | Chronic weight management                                   | Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

<sup>3</sup>. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

## EXISTING DRUGS with CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus and Standard/Value formularies:**

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s)             | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clindagel <sup>1</sup>                               | Acne vulgaris                 |                         |
| prednisolone sodium phosphate 15mg/5ml oral solution | Steroid responsive conditions |                         |

<sup>1</sup>. effective 5/2021

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Standard/Value formularies:**

| Drug    | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Altreno | Acne vulgaris     | Age-limit               |

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus formulary:**

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s)        |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Absorica <sup>1</sup>                         | Acne vulgaris     |                                |
| Altreno                                       |                   | Prior authorization, Age-limit |
| clindamycin 1% gel (Clindagel) <sup>1,2</sup> |                   |                                |

<sup>2</sup>. Applies only to Grandfathered plans

**DRUGS MOVED to a DIFFERENT TIER**

The following drugs were **moved to a higher or lower tier** for the **Standard/Value Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug                | FDA Indication(s) | New Tier Status for Plus Formulary |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| aripiprazole tablet | Schizophrenia     | Tier 1 with Quantity limit         |

**DRUGS ADDED to FORMULARY**

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies** as noted:

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| albuterol hfa (Ventolin HFA) <sup>4</sup>   | Asthma            | Quantity limit          |
| clindamycin 1% gel (Clindagel) <sup>3</sup> | Acne vulgaris     |                         |
| Lyumjev, Lyumjev Kwikpen                    | Diabetes          |                         |

<sup>3</sup>. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans; <sup>4</sup>. Effective 7/2021

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Standard/Value Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug                          | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| etravirine (Intelence)        | HIV-infection     | Quantity limit          |
| lopinavir-ritonavir (Kaletra) |                   |                         |
| tiopronin (Thiola)            | Cystinuria        | Prior authorization     |

## **MEDICAL BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

The following coverage policies were updated (or created if specified "NEW") and changes are effective on September 1, 2021 and available on the BSC Internet site, and Provider Portal: blueshieldca.com → drop down "Providers" → select "Guidelines and Resources" under Public Links → Guidelines & standards → Policy and standards → Medication Policies → Medication Policy List → Medical drug policies for Commercial plans.

Refer to medication policy for complete details. For description of change, refer to top of medication policy.

For additional information, please call 1-800-535-9481

| <b>New Policies</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aduhelm (aducanumab-avwa)</li><li>• Jemperli (dostarlimab-gxly)</li><li>• Rybrevant (amivantamab-vmjw)</li><li>• Zynlonta (loncvinastuximab tesirine-lpyl)</li></ul>   |
| <b>Updated Policies</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abraxane (paclitaxel protein bound)</li><li>• Aranesp (darbepoetin)</li><li>• Azedra (iobenguane I-131)</li><li>• Bevacizumab (Avastin, Myvasi, Zirabev)</li><li>• Brineura (cerliponase alfa)</li><li>• Crysvisa (burosumab-twza)</li><li>• Cyramza (ramucinumab)</li><li>• Epoetin Alfa (Epogen, Procrit, Retacrit)</li><li>• Faslodex (fulvestrant)</li><li>• Filgrastim- containing agents (Neupogen, Nivestym, Zarxio)</li><li>• Halaven (eribulin)</li><li>• Ixempra (ixabepilone)</li><li>• Keytruda (pembrolizumab)</li><li>• Fusilev (levoleucovorin)</li><li>• Granix (Tbo-filgrastim)</li><li>• Khapzory (levoleucovorin)</li><li>• Krystexxa (pegloticase)</li><li>• Libtayo (cemiplimab-rwlc)</li><li>• Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycolepoetin beta)</li><li>• Nplate (romiplostim)</li><li>• Onpattro (patisiran)</li><li>• Opdivo (nivolumab)</li><li>• Padcev (enfortumab vedotin-efv)</li><li>• Rituximab (Riabni, Rituxan, Ruxience, Truxima)</li><li>• Rituxan Hycela (rituximab hyaluronidase)</li><li>• Strensiq (asfotase alfa)</li><li>• Synribo (omacetaxine)</li><li>• Tazverik (tazemetostat)</li><li>• Tecentriaq (atezolizumab)</li><li>• Tegsedi (inotersen)</li><li>• Torisel (temsirolus)</li><li>• Trodelvy (sacituzimab govitecan-hziy)</li><li>• Vectibix (panitumumab)</li><li>• Vyepiti (eptinezumab-jmr)</li><li>• Yervoy (ipilimumab)</li><li>• Zevalin (ibritumomab)</li></ul> |

## **PHARMACY BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

The following coverage policies were updated (or created if specified "NEW") and changes are effective on September 1, 2021 and available on the BSC Internet site, and Provider Portal: blueshieldca.com → drop down "Providers" → select "Guidelines and Resources" under Public Links → Guidelines & standards → Policy and standards → Medication Policies → Medication Policy List → Outpatient drug policies for Commercial plans.

Refer to medication policy for complete details.

For additional information, please call 1-800-535-9481

| <b>New Policies</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accrufer (ferric maltol)</li><li>• Azstarys (serdexmethylphenidate-dexmethylphenidate)</li><li>• Brexafemme (ibrexafungerp citrate)</li><li>• Clemastine fumarate</li><li>• Empaveli (pegcetacoplan)</li><li>• Exservan (riluzole)</li><li>• Kloxxado (naloxone)</li><li>• Lumakras (sotorasib)</li><li>• Lybalvi (olanzapine/samidorphane)</li><li>• Myfembree (relugolix-estradiol-norethindrone acetate)</li><li>• Nextstellis (drospirenone and estetrol)</li><li>• Qelbree ER (viloxazine ER)</li><li>• Roszet (rosuvastatin-ezetimibe)</li><li>• Truseltiq (infigratinib)</li><li>• Wegovy (semaglutide)</li><li>• Zegalogue (deasilucagon)</li></ul>   |
| <b>Updated Policies</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adcirca (Tadalafil)</li><li>• Adempas (riociguat)</li><li>• Afinitor, Afinitor Disperz (everolimus)</li><li>• Aimovig (ereumab-aooe)</li><li>• Ajoovy (fremanezumab-vfrm)</li><li>• Allergen Extract Agents (Ragwitek)</li><li>• Alyq (tadalafil)</li><li>• Avyakit (avapritinib)</li><li>• benzphetamine (Didrex)</li><li>• Cabometyx (cabozantinib)</li><li>• Cialis (tadalafil)</li><li>• Contrave ER (bupropion/ naltrexone)</li><li>• Cosentyx (secukinumab)</li><li>• Daliresp (roflumilast)</li><li>• diethylpropion (Tenuate, Tenuate Dospan)</li><li>• Emgality (galcanezumab-gnlm)</li><li>• Emend (aprepitant)</li><li>• Epclusa (sofosbuvir/velpatasvir)</li><li>• Erivedge (vismodegib)</li><li>• Farxiga (dapagliflozin)</li><li>• Hetlioz (tasimelteon)</li><li>• Ibrance (palbociclib)</li><li>• Inlyta (axitinib)</li><li>• Invokamet/Invokamet tXR (canagliflozing/metformin)</li><li>• Invokana (canagliflozin)</li><li>• itraconazole</li></ul> |

- Kisqali (ribociclib)
- Koselugo (selumetinib)
- Lenvima (lenvatinib)
- Letairis (ambrisentan)
- Levitra (vardenafil)
- Lonsurf (trifluridine-tipiracil)
- Nerlynx (neratinib)
- Nexavar (sorafenib)
- Noxafil (posaconazole)
- Nurtec (Rimegepant)
- Pemazyre (pemigatinib)
- phendimetrazine (Bontril, Bontril PDM)
- phentermine (Adipex-P, Fastin, Lomaira)
- Piqray (alpelisib)
- Qsymia (phentermine/ topiramate)
- Opsumit (macitentan)
- Orenitram (treprostinil)
- Ortikos (budesonide ER)
- Revatio (sildenafil)
- Reyvow (Lasmiditan)
- Saxenda (liraglutide)
- Solosec (secnidazole)
- Staxyn (vardenafil)
- Stendra (avanafil)
- Sutent (sunitinib)
- Tafinlar (dabrafenib)
- Targretin (bexarotene)
- Tavalisse (fostamatinib)
- Tiglutik (riluzole)
- Tolsura (itraconazole)
- Tracleer (bosentan)
- Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor)
- Tykerb (lapatinib)
- Ubroelvy (ubrogepant)
- Upravi (selexipag)
- Voriconazole
- Votrient (pazopanib)
- Vyndaqel, Vyndamax (tafamidis)
- Xenical (orlistat)
- Xigduo XR (dapagliflozing/metformin)
- Zelboraf (vemurafenib)
- Zeposia (ozanimod)



**BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA  
THIRD QUARTER 2021 FORMULARY AND MEDICATION POLICY UPDATES**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022**

*for Large Group, Small Group, and Individual & Family Plans*

The Blue Shield of California (BSC) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, consisting of network physicians and pharmacists, regularly evaluates drugs for formulary inclusion and medication policy coverage criteria. The third quarter 2021 P&T Committee decisions on formulary changes and medication policy changes, which apply to Commercial members with an outpatient drug benefit, are summarized below:

**PHARMACY BENEFIT FORMULARY UPDATE:**

Please refer to the appropriate drug formulary posted on our website for the following information:

- Quantity limits, if applicable, for specific drugs
- Formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs. *Note:* The formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs will have the same formulary status as the existing strengths unless otherwise noted.
- Non-formulary and non-preferred generic drugs that do not require prior authorization or step therapy
- Brand-name medications that are now non-formulary or non-preferred because these medications have newly available generic equivalents covered on the formulary

Formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](https://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select the appropriate drug formulary – “Standard Drug Formulary”, “Value Drug Formulary”, or “Plus Drug Formulary”.

Summary of changes to the Medicare formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](https://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select “Medicare Drug Formulary”, then select the appropriate plan, and the corresponding “Summary of Changes” PDF.

**DRUGS REMOVED from FORMULARY**

The following drug(s) are **no longer covered on the Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies** because it is available without a prescription.

| Drug                                     | FDA Indication(s)             | Alternative(s)                    |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| hydrocortisone 1% ointment, in absorbase | Steroid responsive dermatoses | hydrocortisone 2.5% cream, lotion |

The following drug(s) were **removed from the Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies**.

- These drugs require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage at Tier 3 unless noted otherwise.

| Drug                             | FDA Indication(s) | Alternative(s)  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| phendimetrazine 105mg er capsule | Weight management | phendimetrazine tablet, phentermine capsule & tablet    |
| Ventolin HFA                     | Asthma            | albuterol hfa (Proair HFA, Proventil HFA, Ventolin HFA) |

The following drug(s) were **moved to the non-formulary tier or removed from the Plus Formulary**.

- These drugs are available at the non-formulary, Tier 3, copayment when prior authorization is approved unless noted otherwise.

| Drug                               | FDA Indication(s) | Restriction(s) | Alternative(s)  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Lortab 10-300mg/15ml oral solution | Pain              | Quantity limit | hydrocodone-acetaminophen 10mg-325mg tablet, hydrocodone-acetaminophen 7.5mg-325mg/15ml oral solution |

**DRUGS MOVED to a DIFFERENT TIER**

The following drugs were moved to a higher or lower tier for the Plus Drug Formulary as noted:

| Drug                             | FDA Indication(s) | New Tier Status for Plus Formulary              |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| alogliptin (Nesina)              | Diabetes          | Tier 2 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |
| alogliptin-metformin (Kazano)    |                   |   |
| alogliptin-pioglitazone (Oseni)  |                   |   |
| ivermectin 1% cream <sup>3</sup> | Acne rosacea      | Tier 2 with Prior authorization, Quantity limit |

3. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

**BLUE SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA**  
**FOURTH QUARTER 2021 FORMULARY AND MEDICATION POLICY UPDATES**

**EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2021**

*for Large Group, Small Group, and Individual & Family Plans*

The Blue Shield of California (BSC) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, consisting of network physicians and pharmacists, regularly evaluates drugs for formulary inclusion and medication policy coverage criteria. The fourth quarter 2021 P&T Committee decisions on formulary changes and medication policy changes, which apply to Commercial members with an outpatient drug benefit, are summarized below:

**PHARMACY BENEFIT FORMULARY UPDATE:**

Please refer to the appropriate drug formulary posted on our website for the following information:

- Quantity limits, if applicable, for specific drugs
- Formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs. *Note:* The formulary status of newly available strengths of existing drugs will have the same formulary status as the existing strengths unless otherwise noted.
- Non-formulary and non-preferred generic drugs that do not require prior authorization or step therapy
- Brand-name medications that are now non-formulary or non-preferred because these medications have newly available generic equivalents covered on the formulary

Formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](https://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select the appropriate drug formulary – “Standard Drug Formulary”, “Value Drug Formulary”, or “Plus Drug Formulary”.

Summary of changes to the Medicare formularies are available at [blueshieldca.com/pharmacy](https://blueshieldca.com/pharmacy). Select “Medicare Drug Formulary”, then select the appropriate plan, and the corresponding “Summary of Changes” PDF.

**DRUGS REMOVED from FORMULARY**

The following drug(s) were **removed from the Standard/Value Drug Formularies.**

- These drugs require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage at Tier 3 unless noted otherwise.

| Drug                  | FDA Indication(s)  | Alternative(s) |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| Cosentyx <sup>1</sup> | Plaque psoriasis, Psoriatic arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, Spondyloarthritis | Taltz          |

<sup>1</sup>. effective 1/2022

The following drug(s) were **removed from the Plus Drug Formulary.**

- These drugs require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage at Tier 3 unless noted otherwise.

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s)   | Alternative(s)  |
|--|---------------------|---|
| doxycycline hyclate 50mg tablet <sup>1,2</sup> | Bacterial infection | doxycycline hyclate 50mg capsule, doxycycline monohydrate 50mg tablet |

<sup>1</sup>. effective 1/2022; <sup>2</sup>. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

**NEW GENERICS with RESTRICTIONS**

The following drugs are **newly available** **GENERIC** drugs that were **ADDED to the Standard/Value Drug Formulary** with coverage restrictions:

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s)   | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| everolimus 10mg (Afinitor)                               | Breast cancer, Neuroendocrine tumor, Renal cell carcinoma, Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) -associated renal angiomyolipoma, TSC associated SEGA | Prior authorization     |
| everolimus tablet for oral suspension (Afinitor Disperz) | Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) - associated SEGA, TSC-associated partial-onset seizures   | Prior authorization     |
| sunitinib (Sutent)                                       | Renal cell cancer, GIST, pNET   | Prior authorization     |

The following drugs are **newly available** **GENERIC** drugs that were **ADDED to the Plus Drug Formulary with coverage restrictions**:

| Drug                                       | FDA Indication(s)                            | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| buprenorphine buccal film (Belbuca)        | Pain   | Prior authorization     |
| ibuprofen-famotidine (Duexis) <sup>3</sup> | OA, RA and increased risk of upper GI ulcers | Prior authorization     |

3. Applies only to Grandfathered plans

#### DRUGS ADDED to the BLUE SHIELD SPECIALTY TIER

The following drugs were **ADDED to the Blue Shield Specialty Tier (Tier 4) only for the Plus Drug Formulary**:

- Refer to member benefit summary for applicable member share of cost.

| Specialty Drug   | FDA Indication(s)   | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Bylvay   | Pruritis associated with intrahepatic cholestasis   | Prior authorization     |
| chlorpromazine concentrated oral solution <sup>2</sup>   | Schizophrenia, Nausea/vomiting, Porphyria, Hiccups, Opposition defiant disorder   | Prior authorization     |
| diclofenac potassium 25mg tablet <sup>2</sup>            | Dysmenorrhea, OA, RA, Mild to moderate pain   | Prior authorization     |
| everolimus 10mg (Afinitor)                               | Breast cancer, Neuroendocrine tumor, Renal cell carcinoma, Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) -associated renal angiomyolipoma, TSC associated SEGA | Prior authorization     |
| everolimus tablet for oral suspension (Afinitor Disperz) | Tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) - associated SEGA, TSC-associated partial-onset seizures   | Prior authorization     |
| Exkivity   | Non-small cell lung cancer  | Prior authorization     |
| Livmarli   | Cholestatic pruritis associated with Alagille syndrome  | Prior authorization     |
| Lybalvi <sup>2</sup>                                     | Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder   | Prior authorization     |
| Opzelura <sup>2</sup>                                    | Atopic dermatitis   | Prior authorization     |
| Qulipta <sup>2</sup>                                     | Migraine  | Prior authorization     |
| Trudhesa <sup>2</sup>                                    |   |                         |

| Specialty Drug     | FDA Indication(s)             | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rezurock           | Chronic graft vs host         | Prior authorization     |
| sunitinib (Sutent) | Renal cell cancer, GIST, pNET | Prior authorization     |
| Welireg            | von Hippel-Lindau disease     | Prior authorization     |

2. Does not apply to Grandfathered plans

#### EXISTING DRUGS with CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus and Standard/Value formularies**:

| Drug  | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| modafinil (Provigil)                          | Narcolepsy, Obstructive sleep apnea, Shift work disorder |                         |
| risedronate 5mg, 35mg, 150mg tablet (Actonel) | Osteoporosis   |                         |
| risedronate 35mg dr tablet (Atelvia)          |  |                         |

The following drugs have **no change in formulary status**, but have **modification to restrictions** as noted for the **Plus formulary**:

| Drug                            | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Actonel 5mg, 35mg, 150mg tablet | Osteoporosis   |                         |
| Atelvia                         |  |                         |
| Fanapt <sup>1</sup>             | Schizophrenia  | Step therapy            |
| Saphris <sup>1</sup>            | Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder                          |                         |
| Versacloz <sup>1</sup>          | Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder                  |                         |
| flac otic oil                   | Eczematous external otitis                               |                         |
| fluocinolone acetonide otic oil |  |                         |
| Provigil                        | Narcolepsy, Obstructive sleep apnea, Shift work disorder |                         |

1. effective 1/2022

#### DRUGS MOVED to a DIFFERENT TIER

The following drugs were **moved to a higher or lower tier** for the **Standard/Value Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug   | FDA Indication(s)              | New Tier Status for Standard/Value Formulary |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| Suprep | Bowel cleanser for colonoscopy | Tier 2                                       |

**DRUGS ADDED to FORMULARY**

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Plus and Standard/Value Drug Formularies** as noted:

| Drug                  | FDA Indication(s) | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Klor-con M15          | Hypokalemia       |                         |
| nebivolol (Bystolic)  | Hypertension      |                         |
| SSD                   | Wound care        |                         |
| varenicline (Chantix) | Smoking cessation |                         |

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Standard/Value Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug               | FDA Indication(s)  | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Latuda             | Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder  | Step therapy            |
| Taltz <sup>1</sup> | Plaque psoriasis, Psoriatic arthritis, Ankylosing spondylitis, Spondyloarthritis | Prior authorization     |
| Verzenio           | Breast cancer  | Prior authorization     |

1. effective 1/2022

The following drugs were **ADDED** to the **Plus Drug Formulary** as noted:

| Drug                               | FDA Indication(s)            | Coverage Restriction(s) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| difluprednate (Durezol)            | Pain and inflammation        |                         |
| enalapril oral solution (Epaned)   | Hypertension, Heart failure  |                         |
| paroxetine oral suspension (Paxil) | MDD, OCD, PD, SAD, GAD, PTSD |                         |
| Targadox <sup>3</sup>              | Bacterial infection          | Prior authorization     |
| Zenzedi <sup>3</sup>               | ADHD, Narcolepsy             | Step therapy, Age-limit |

3. Applies only to Grandfathered plans

## **MEDICAL BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

The following coverage policies were updated (or created if specified "NEW") and changes are effective on December 1, 2021, and available on the BSC Internet site, and Provider Portal: blueshieldca.com → drop down "Providers" → select "Guidelines and Resources" under Public Links → Guidelines & standards → Policy and standards → Medication Policies → Medication Policy List → Medical drug policies for Commercial plans.

Refer to medication policy for complete details. For description of change, refer to top of medication policy.

For additional information, please call 1-800-535-9481

| <b><i>New Policies</i></b>   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nexviazyme (avalglucosidase alfa-ngpt)</li><li>• Rylaze (asparaginase erwinia chrysanthemi [recombinant]-rywn)</li><li>• Saphnelo (anifrolumab-fnia)</li><li>• Tivdak (tisotumab vedotin-tftv)</li><li>• Upravi (selexipag)</li></ul>  |
| <b><i>Updated Policies</i></b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actemra (tocilizumab)</li><li>• Avsola (infliximab-axxq)</li><li>• Benlysta (belimumab)</li><li>• Darzalex (daratumumab)</li><li>• Darzalex Faspro (daratumumab; hyaluronidase-fihj)</li><li>• Entyvio (vedolizumab)</li><li>• Erbitux (cetuximab)</li><li>• Ilumya (fildrakizumab-asmn)</li><li>• Inflectra (infliximab-dyyb)</li><li>• IVIG</li><li>• Jemperli (dostarlimab-gxly)</li><li>• Kevzara (sarilumab)</li><li>• Keytruda (pembrolizumab)</li><li>• Kyprolis (carfilzomib)</li><li>• Nplate (romiplostim)</li><li>• Opdivo (nivolumab)</li><li>• Orencia (abatacept)</li><li>• Polivy (polatuzumab vedotin-piiq)</li><li>• Remicade (infliximab)</li><li>• Renflexis (infliximab-abda)</li><li>• Revatio (sildenafil)</li><li>• Riabni (rituximab-arx)</li><li>• Rituxan (rituximab)</li><li>• Ruxience (rituximab-pvvr)</li><li>• Rybrevant (amivantamab-vmjw)</li><li>• Simponi Aria (golimumab)</li><li>• Stelara (ustekinumab)</li><li>• Sylvant (siltuximab)</li><li>• Tecartus (brexucabtagene autoleucel)</li><li>• Tecentriq (atezolizumab)</li><li>• Torisel (temsirrolimus)</li><li>• Truxima (rituximab-abbs)</li><li>• Tysabri (natalizumab)</li><li>• Velcade (bortezomib)</li><li>• Yervoy (ipilimumab)</li></ul> |

## **PHARMACY BENEFIT MEDICATION POLICIES:**

The following coverage policies were updated (or created if specified "NEW") and changes are effective on December 1, 2021, and available on the BSC Internet site, and Provider Portal: blueshieldca.com → drop down "Providers" → select "Guidelines and Resources" under Public Links → Guidelines & standards → Policy and standards → Medication Policies → Medication Policy List → Outpatient drug policies for Commercial plans.

Refer to medication policy for complete details.

For additional information, please call 1-800-535-9481

| <b>New Policies</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bylvay (odevixibat)</li><li>• chlorpromazine</li><li>• Diclofenac potassium</li><li>• Exkivity (mobocertinib)</li><li>• Fanapt (iloperidone)</li><li>• Kerendia (finerenone)</li><li>• Livmarli (maralixibat)</li><li>• Loreev XR (lorazepam extended-release)</li><li>• Myrbetriq granules (mirabegron)</li><li>• Opzelura (ruxolitinib phosphate)</li><li>• Qulipta (atogepant)</li><li>• Rezurock (belumosudil mesylate)</li><li>• Saphris (asenapine)</li><li>• Thalitone (chlorthalidone)</li><li>• Trudhesa (dihydroergotamine mesylate)</li><li>• Versacloz (clozapine)</li><li>• Welireg (belzutifan)</li></ul>  |
| <b>Updated Policies</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actemra (tocilizumab)</li><li>• Apokyn (apomorphine)</li><li>• Balversa (erdafitinib)</li><li>• Braftovi (encorafenib)</li><li>• Brukinsa (zanubrutinib)</li><li>• Cabometyx (cabozantinib)</li><li>• Cimzia (certolizumab pegol)</li><li>• Cometriq (cabozantinib)</li><li>• Cosentyx (secukinumab)</li><li>• Cotellic (cobimetinib)</li><li>• Doptelet (avatrombopag)</li><li>• Dupixent (dupilumab)</li><li>• Enbrel (etanercept)</li><li>• Gocovri (amantadine)</li><li>• Hetlioz (tasimelteon)</li><li>• Humira (adalimumab)</li><li>• Inbrija (levodopa)</li><li>• Jardiance (empagliflozin)</li><li>• Kevzara (sarilumab)</li><li>• Kineret (anakinra)</li><li>• Kynmobi (apomorphine)</li><li>• Lenvima (lenvatinib)</li><li>• Lynparza (olaparib)</li><li>• Mekinist (trametinib)</li><li>• Mektovi (binimetinib)</li><li>• Nexavar (sorafenib)</li></ul> |



- Nourianz (istradefylline)
- Nucala (mepolizumab)
- Olumiant (baricitinib)
- Ongentys (opicapone)
- Orencia (abatacept)
- Osmolex ER (amantadine)
- Otezla (apremilast)
- Pomalyst (pomalidomide)
- Promacta (eltrombopag)
- Revlimid (lenalidomide)
- Rinvoq ER (upadacitinib)
- Sabril (vigabatrin)
- Siliq (brodalumab)
- Simponi (golimumab)
- Skyrizi (risankizumab-rzaa)
- Stelara (ustekinumab)
- Tafinlar (dabrafenib)
- Taltz (ixekizumab)
- Tavalisse (fostamatinib)
- Tremfya (guselkumab)
- Turalio (pexidartinib)
- Xeljanz, Xeljanz XR (tofacitinib)
- Xpovio (selinexor)
- Xywav (calcium/magnesium/potassium/sodium oxybate)
- Zelboraf (vemurafenib)
- Zeposia (ozanimod)