

Prescribing covered formulary medications improves your patient's access to care, out-of-pocket costs, adherence to treatment plan, and overall experience.



## Did you know?

- Tier Exceptions to reduce your Medicare patient's medication cost do not apply to drugs on a specialty tier, non-formulary drugs, and drugs covered under Part B (CMS rules apply).
- New generic drugs are often released at a higher price than other drugs in the same class. If so, some generics may be non-formulary, or a lower-cost brand may be preferred.
- Lidocaine 5% patches (Lidoderm®) – CMS only allows coverage for treating post-herpetic neuralgia, diabetic neuropathy, and cancer pain. Other indications are excluded.
- CMS excludes drugs used to promote weight loss for Medicare patients. For non-Medicare patients, Blue Shield's coverage of GLP-1 agonists is based on the FDA label indication(s) and coverage requirements.
- CMS excludes coverage for medications used to treat erectile dysfunction.
- Anticipating the need for prior authorization or a Part D formulary exception request can help avoid additional delays in access to prescribed medications.

## Help during prescribing

- Through your electronic health record (EHR) or e-prescribing system\*, you can view real-time prescription benefit information when you begin an e-prescription to help with shared decision-making. This information includes:
  - Rx coverage notices such as non-formulary, prior authorization, or exceeding a limit.
  - Your patient's out-of-pocket cost if filled "today" and accounts for your patient's benefit and deductible accumulations at the time of prescribing.
  - Lower cost drug alternatives for the chosen drug.
- The above information is also available to patients when they log in to Blue Shield's website or mobile app with their member ID. They may also view their cost for a 3-month supply of medication at other retail or mail pharmacies.
- Also helpful during a patient office visit, review the medication list to:
  - Identify opportunities to discontinue unnecessary medications.
  - Identify opportunities to reduce or consolidate medication doses. Note that CMS deems Rx sigs that do not match actual dosing by a patient as a fraudulent practice.
  - Ask patients if they are having difficulty taking or refilling their medications. If needed, members may call Blue Shield for help from one of our pharmacists.

\* Check with your electronic health record (EHR) /e-prescribing system vendor, medical group, or MSO to see if any implementation steps are needed for your practice.