



May 2025

Value Drug Formulary changes

Blue Shield of California is committed to providing access to safe, effective, and affordable medications for our members. That's why we review and update our drug formularies four times per year. Any changes are made by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee. The committee is made up of a group of practicing physicians and pharmacists.

We make changes to our formulary based on:

- New clinical guidelines
- New information from key physician experts
- Updates from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Recent medical literature

See below for changes to the *Value Drug Formulary* from the P&T Committee as of May 2025. Please visit our website to [download a copy](#) of the *Value Drug Formulary*.

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

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier Status
Abirtega	Prostate cancer	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 4
clonazepam odt	Seizures, Panic disorder		Tier 1
clonidine 0.1mg er 12hr tablet	ADHD	Quantity limit	Tier 1
methylphenidate hcl er capsule (Metadate CD)	ADHD	Age-limit, Quantity limit	Tier 1
eletriptan hydrobromide (Relpax)	Acute migraine	Quantity limit	Tier 2
minocycline hcl 50mg, 75mg, 100mg tablet	Bacterial infection		Tier 2
Promacta	Thrombocytopenia, Aplastic anemia	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 4

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier Status
ticagrelor 90mg tablet (Brilinta)	Arterial thromboembolism prophylaxis, CAD, Stroke or MI prophylaxis		Tier 1
pindolol tablet	Hypertension		Tier 1
timolol maleate tablet	Hypertension, MI, Migraine prophylaxis		Tier 1
Trintellix	Depression	Prior authorization	Tier 3
Adbry	Atopic dermatitis	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 4
dapsone 5%, 7.5% gel	Acne vulgaris	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 3
tazarotene 0.05% cream, gel (Tazorac)	Plaque psoriasis		Tier 1
tazarotene 0.1% cream, gel (Tazorac)	Plaque psoriasis, Acne vulgaris		Tier 1
acyclovir 5% ointment (Zovirax)	Genital herpes, Mucocutaneous Herpes simplex virus infections	Quantity limit	Tier 1
clobetasol propionate 0.05% lotion (Clobex)	Steroid responsive skin conditions		Tier 1
fluocinonide 0.1% cream (Vanos)	Steroid responsive skin conditions		Tier 1
Derma-Smoothe/FS 0.01% body oil	Atopic dermatitis		Tier 2
esomeprazole magnesium 40mg dr capsule (Nexium)	Erosive esophagitis, GERD, Gastric ulcer, Duodenal ulcer, Hypersecretory conditions	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2
tadalafil tablet (Cialis)	Erectile dysfunction, BPH	Quantity limit	Tier 1
tropium chloride er capsule (Sanctura XR)	Overactive bladder	Quantity limit	Tier 2
estradiol 0.75mg/1.25gm gel (Estrogel)	Vasomotor symptoms, Vulvar and vaginal atrophy	Quantity limit	Tier 3
estradiol gel (Divigel)	Vasomotor symptoms	Quantity limit	Tier 3
Armour thyroid, NP Thyroid, Thyroid	Hypothyroidism, Euthyroid goiter		Tier 3

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier Status
mesalamine 1gm suppository (Canasa)	Ulcerative proctitis	Quantity limit	Tier 2
loteprednol etabonate 0.2% ophth suspension (Alrex)	Allergic conjunctivitis		Tier 2
loteprednol etabonate 0.5% ophth suspension (Lotemax)	Post-op inflammation after ocular surgery, Steroid responsive inflammatory conditions of the eye		Tier 2
fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% otic oil	Eczematous otitis externa		Tier 1
olopatadine hcl (Patanase)	Allergic rhinitis	Quantity limit	Tier 1
Feirza	Contraceptive		Tier 1
Valtya	Contraceptive		Tier 1
auranofin (Ridaura)	Rheumatoid arthritis		Tier 2

2. Formulary drugs with tier status and/or coverage restriction changes

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	New tier status
galantamine hydrobromide tablet	Alzheimer's disease		Tier 1
galantamine hydrobromide er capsule	Alzheimer's disease		Tier 1
candesartan cilexetil (Atacand)	Hypertension, Heart failure	Quantity limit, Remove Step therapy	Remain Tier 1
candesartan cilexetil-hctz (Atacand HCT)	Hypertension	Quantity limit, Remove Step therapy	Tier 1
olmesartan-amlodipine-hctz (Tribenzor)	Hypertension	Quantity limit, Remove Step therapy	Remain Tier 1
telmisartan-hctz (Micardis HCT)	Hypertension	Quantity limit, Remove Step therapy	Tier 1
adapalene-benzoyl peroxide (Epiduo)	Acne vulgaris	Age-limit, Remove Step therapy	Remain Tier 3
diflorasone diacetate 0.05% cream	Steroid responsive skin conditions	Remove Step therapy, Add Prior authorization	Remain Tier 3

2. Formulary drugs with tier status and/or coverage restriction changes

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	New tier status
fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% solution (Synalar)	Steroid responsive skin conditions		Tier 1
fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% body oil (Derma-Smoothe/FS)	Atopic dermatitis		Tier 1
fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% scalp oil (Derma-Smoothe/FS)	Psoriasis		Tier 1
sildenafil citrate tablet (Viagra)	Erectile dysfunction	Quantity limit, Remove Prior authorization	Remain Tier 1
solifenacin succinate tablet (Vesicare)	Overactive bladder	Quantity limit	Tier 1
tolterodine tartrate (Detrol)	Overactive bladder	Quantity limit, Remove Step therapy	Remain Tier 2
tolterodine tartrate er capsule (Detrol LA)	Overactive bladder	Quantity limit, Remove Step therapy	Remain Tier 2
clomiphene citrate, Clomid	Infertility	Remove Quantity limit	Remain Tier 1
norelgestromin-ethinyl estradiol, Xulane, Zafemy	Contraceptive	Remove Quantity limit	Remain Tier 1
Twirla	Contraceptive	Remove Quantity limit	Remain Tier 3
etonogestrel-ethinyl estradiol, EluRyng, EnilloRing, Haloette	Contraceptive	Remove Quantity limit	Remain Tier 2
levonorgestrel-ethinyl estradiol, Amethyst, Dolishale	Contraceptive	Remove Quantity limit	Remain Tier 1
timolol maleate 0.25%, 0.5% ophth gel forming solution	Glaucoma		Tier 1

3. Drugs removed from the formulary

Brand-name drugs removed from the formulary as of August 1, 2025 due to an available generic drug. The generic has been added to the formulary.

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Alternative(s)
Brilinta 90mg tablet	Arterial thromboembolism prophylaxis, CAD, Stroke or MI prophylaxis	ticagrelor