

What should I do if I take a drug that is part of the program?

If you are already taking a medication that is included in the prior authorization program when the program becomes part of your prescription drug benefit, your physician will need to submit a prior authorization request for your current prescription before you can continue to receive coverage for the drug.

If your doctor writes you a new prescription for a medication included in the program, he or she will need to complete and submit a prior authorization request before the drug can be covered under your benefit plan.

What medications are included in the prior authorization program?

On the next panel are examples of drug categories which may be included in the prior authorization program. The medications listed in each category are examples of these types of drugs, but do not represent a complete list. Call the Pharmacy Program number on the back of your ID card to confirm whether a particular drug is included in the prior authorization program.

Drug categories which may be included in the prior authorization program and sample medications^{†*}:

Acne: Solodyn

Anabolic Steroids: Anadrol, Oxandrin, Winstrol

Growth Hormones: Genotropin, Humatrope, Norditropin, Nutropin, Nutropin AQ, Omnitrope, Saizen, Serostim, Tev-Tropin, Zorbtive

Hepatitis C Medications: Infergen, PegIntron, Pegasys

Narcolepsy: Nuvigil, Provigil, Xyrem

Oral Fentanyl: Actiq, Fentora, Onsolis

Encouraging safe and cost-effective medication use, by using tools such as prior authorization, helps manage the rising cost of prescription drugs – for everyone.

Visit www.bcbsil.com for a more comprehensive and up-to-date list of drugs which may be included in the prior authorization program.

If you have questions about the prior authorization program, call the Pharmacy Program number on the back of your ID card.

[†]Additional categories may be added and the program may change from time to time.

^{*}Third-party brand names are the property of their respective owners.

Prior Authorization Program



The prior authorization program encourages safe and cost-effective medication use.

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Experience. Wellness. Everywhere.™

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois is working to find ways to manage the rising cost of prescription drugs. Your benefit plan uses tools, such as prior authorization, that can help control costs for everyone.

What is prior authorization?

The prior authorization program encourages the safe and cost-effective use of medication. Under this program, certain high-cost drugs that have the potential for misuse require prior authorization through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois before they will be covered under your benefit plan.

If you are currently taking or are prescribed a drug that is included in the prior authorization program, your physician will need to submit a prior authorization request

in order for your prescription to be considered for coverage. Your doctor can find prior authorization forms on the provider portal at www.bcbsil.com.

Physicians may also call (800) 285-9426 with questions, or to obtain a form. As always, treatment decisions are between you and your doctor.



How does the program work?

If the prior authorization request is approved:
You will pay the appropriate amount based on your prescription drug benefit when you fill your prescription.

If the prior authorization request is not approved:
The medication will not be covered under your prescription drug benefit. You can still obtain the medication, but you will be responsible for the full cost. Or, you can talk to your doctor to find out if another drug might be right

for you. Your course of treatment can only be determined by you and your doctor. As always, the appeal rights provided by your benefit plan are available to you.

Why are only certain drugs included in the prior authorization program?

Since the program's goal is to promote safe and cost-effective medication use, the prior authorization program targets drugs that are not only high-cost but also have the potential for misuse. Growth hormones are one example. They are clinically intended to treat growth hormone deficiency and other medical conditions. However, growth hormones are sometimes misused by body builders to increase muscle mass and by others for anti-aging effects.



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by you and your doctor.