

What medications are included in the prior authorization program?

Check with your plan sponsor or call the customer service number on the back of your ID card to learn which drugs are included in your group's prior authorization program.* Below are examples of drug categories for which a prior authorization program may exist.

Sample Drug Categories Included in Prior Authorization Programs

Anabolic steroids are used to treat certain types of anemias and promote weight gain in individuals following extensive surgery, chronic infections or severe trauma. Anabolic steroids potentially included in the prior authorization program are Anadrol, Oxandrin and Winstrol.

Growth hormones are used to treat children and adults whose bodies do not naturally produce enough growth hormone on their own. They may also be used to treat conditions such as chronic renal insufficiency or Turner syndrome. Growth hormones that may be included in the prior authorization program are Genotropin, Humatrope, Norditropin, Nutropin, Nutropin AQ, Saizen and Serostim.

**Additional categories may be added and the programs may change periodically.*

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

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

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



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**



Prior Authorization Program

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**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and your plan sponsor are working together to find ways to manage the rising costs 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. As always, treatment decisions rest solely with 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 purchase 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 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.

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.

Your course of treatment can only be determined by you and your doctor.

