



**CIGNA Pharmacy
Management**

Prior Authorization/Step Therapy Program

*Providing
Best in Class
Cost
Management
Strategies*

<p>Program Overview</p>	<p>Effective January 1, 2008, CIGNA Pharmacy Management (CPM) will implement a new program to encourage cost-effective, clinically appropriate drug utilization for pharmacy plan members. Pharmacy plan members will be automatically included in the program beginning at your plan's renewal date.</p> <p>The program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Include a sequence of three "steps" in the choice of medication used to treat the following common medical conditions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High Blood Pressure ○ High Cholesterol ○ Stomach Acid conditions ➤ Require members, 18 years of age or older, to try a "first step" medication, generally a generic, before stepping to a higher cost-medication, if medically necessary. ➤ Allow a physician at any time to request prior authorization for second or third step medications for medical reasons. ➤ Contain member and prescriber outreach components which include a "First-Fill Pay & Educate" feature.
<p>Why are we implementing the program?</p>	<p>Often, there are several medication choices available to treat a given medical condition. Though the safety and clinical effectiveness of these choices can be equivalent, the cost can vary widely. This is most apparent with generic medications that are FDA approved to be just as effective as brand name counterparts. Generics offer significant opportunity to manage medication cost while maintaining quality health care.</p>
<p>How will members be impacted?</p>	<p>A robust outreach program will be utilized to help prevent an interruption in medication therapy.</p> <p>Beginning at your plan renewal;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coverage will be provided for an affected medication during a 60-day grace period. Members will receive an education letter encouraging them to contact their physician to determine if a more cost effective prescription is appropriate or to submit a request for a prior authorization. ➤ "First-Fill Pay & Educate" feature takes effect after the grace period and allows coverage for the next fill for an existing medication, or the first fill of a newly prescribed medication. Letters to members and prescribers outline action to be taken before subsequent fills. Messaging by the retail pharmacist also provides additional program outreach. ➤ Future refills, for impacted medications, will not be covered unless prior authorization is obtained.
<p>Questions?</p>	<p>Pharmacy plan members may contact Customer Service by calling the phone number found on the back of their ID card.</p>

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