

January 2018

How to use the *Preferred Drug List* from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Healthcare Solutions (Anthem)

The *Preferred Drug List (PDL)* includes medications available in the pharmacy benefit. Anthem chose these commonly prescribed, preferred medications for their quality and effectiveness. Select drugs may require prior authorization from Anthem.

The *PDL* is updated quarterly and is subject to change without prior notification. To ensure you are viewing the most recent version, make sure you are accessing the digital *PDL* at <https://mediproviders.anthem.com/nv>.

Contact information

If you have questions about the *PDL*, contact Provider Services at **1-844-396-2330**. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific time.

Brand-name drugs versus generic drugs

A brand-name drug is one the original drug manufacturer develops, patents and markets. Until the patent expires, no other company can produce that particular brand-name drug. Various drug companies manufacture generic drugs after the original patent expires. A generic drug has the same active ingredients as its brand-name counterpart. They are identical in dosage form, strength, route of administration, quality and intended uses, but generics may differ from their brand-name equivalents in color and/or shape. Both brands and generics have to meet the same safety, purity and performance standards governed by the FDA.

Quantity supply limit

A quantity supply limit is the maximum amount of a drug a pharmacy can dispense at a given time. Anthem has a prior authorization program that follows FDA-approved dosing guidelines. If a prescribing provider feels a quantity supply greater than the defined maximum is medically necessary, the provider should submit a written prior authorization request to validate the medical rationale for exceeding the recommended dosage.

Dose Optimization program

The Dose Optimization program identifies claims where patients use multiple capsules or tablets per day and encourages an optimal dose and, in some situations, a single daily dose. If providers have not obtained prior authorization, the pharmacy claim system will reject claims with a quantity exceeding the set limit.

<https://mediproviders.anthem.com/nv>

Prior authorization

Prior authorization encourages the appropriate use of medications. Drugs that require prior authorization are generally those that are either part of a step therapy regimen or have lower-cost alternatives. We also include drugs that have high side-effect potential, those that should be reserved for specific FDA indication, or those that have a high misuse or abuse potential. Brand-name drugs with an FDA-approved generic equivalent available, also known as multisource brands, require a written prior authorization based on medical necessity for benefit coverage. Anthem requires prior authorization before we cover multisource brands to promote the use of appropriate generic alternatives as first-line therapies (when medically appropriate). Prior to dispensing any multisource brand, providers are required to consider using its preferred, generic alternative.

Medication utilization must meet FDA-approved indications as well as guidelines from Anthem. If a medication requires prior authorization, providers must submit a completed *Prior Authorization Request* to Anthem. To access *Prior Authorization Request* forms and a list of drugs that require prior authorization, providers can visit <https://mediproviders.anthem.com/nv>. Providers can fax *Prior Authorization Request* forms to Anthem at **1-800-359-5781** or call Provider Services at **1-844-396-2330**.

Key

In each class, drugs are alphabetically listed by either their brand or generic name.

BRAND-NAME DRUGS: uppercase in bold type

generic drug: lowercase in plain type

OTC: over-the-counter medication available with a prescription — Prescribers, please indicate OTC on the prescription.

PA: prior authorization required — Prior authorization is the process of obtaining approval of benefits before certain prescriptions may be filled.

AL: age limit restrictions

QL: quantity limits — Certain prescription medications have specific quantity limits per prescription or per month.

DO: Dose Optimization program

GR: gender restriction

ST: step therapy required