

June 4, 2019

Minnesota Health Care Programs Drug List Changes Coming Effective July 1, 2019

What's changing?

Starting July 1, 2019, UCare will adopt the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Preferred Drug List (PDL) for members in Prepaid Medical Assistance Program, MinnesotaCare, Minnesota Senior Care Plus and UCare Connect. DHS developed the PDL and requires all of the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that offer a drug benefit for Minnesota Health Care Programs to use it. The new List of Covered Drugs (effective July 1, 2019) will be posted to UCare's web site the last week of June.

Other changes to note:

- Some drugs were removed or moved to non-preferred (NP) status.
- Non-preferred drugs need prior authorization and require the member to try and fail two preferred drugs or have a clinical reason for not being able to try the preferred drug.

How will I know if one of my patients is impacted?

If coverage is changing for one of your patients, you and your patient should have received a letter around June 1 notifying you of the change and preferred drug alternative(s). This change only applies to drugs dispensed and billed by a pharmacy. It does not apply to drugs administered to a member and billed on a medical claim. In addition, this change does not apply to members with dual Medicare and Medicaid coverage (i.e., Minnesota Senior Health Options, UCare Connect + Medicare).

Will my patients have to change to a different drug?

Not necessarily. If your patient is taking a non-preferred drug, you will need to either change their prescription to a preferred drug or ask for a prior authorization from UCare for your patient to continue taking it.

What should a prescriber do if their patient's drug is non-preferred come July 1?

Members should talk with their prescriber before July 1 to see if one of the preferred alternatives listed on their letter is appropriate for them. If they need to remain on the non-preferred drug, prescribers will need to request a prior authorization from UCare to continue taking the drug.

The prior authorization or formulary exception process is not available until July 1. However, prescribers can prescribe an alternative to be filled after July 1, 2019.

If my patient already has a prior authorization for a drug and it is not included on the July 1 UCare List of Covered Drugs (or removed), will they need to get a new authorization?

If a member has an existing prior authorization for a drug that is not included on the July 1 drug list or is listed as non-preferred, the prior authorization will be honored by UCare until it expires.

Will members get a transitional fill?

No. Patients will need a prior authorization for any non-preferred or non-formulary drugs on and after July 1, 2019. UCare cannot approve transitional fills.

For additional information about the DHS Preferred Drug List, go to https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/pdl-faq-providers_tcm1053-378520.pdf.