

On the Horizon Rx

a Humana Healthy Horizons
newsletter for pharmacy providers

Volume II



Updates made to the 2023 preferred drug list

Humana's Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) committee establishes and maintains the South Carolina Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL). The committee met in September 2022 and approved PDL changes that go into effect Jan. 1, 2023. Members are notified of negative changes at least 30 days before the effective date.

Drug name	Action	Member alternative 1	Member alternative 2
AFINITOR DISPERZ	Non-PDL	Everolimus (antineoplastic) tablet for oral suspension	
ARNUITY ELLIPTA	Non-PDL	Fluticasone propionate HFA aerosol inhaler	Qvar RediHaler HFA breath-activated aerosol
BOSENTAN	Non-PDL	sildenafil (pulmonary hypertension) tablet	tadalafil (pulmonary hypertension) tablet
CLENPIQ	Non-PDL	Peg 3350-electrolytes powder for solution	GaviLyte-C oral solution
COMBIVENT RESPIMAT	Non-PDL	Albuterol sulfate HFA aerosol inhaler	albuterol sulfate solution for nebulization
COSENTYX	Non-PDL	Humira subcutaneous syringe kit	Enbrel subcutaneous syringe
COSENTYX SENSOREADY PEN	Non-PDL	Humira subcutaneous syringe kit	Enbrel subcutaneous syringe
DEFERASIROX	Non-PDL	Deferasirox tablet	

Humana
Healthy Horizons
in South Carolina

Healthy Connections 

Humana Healthy Horizons in South Carolina is a Medicaid product of Humana Benefit Plan of South Carolina Inc.

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Drug name	Action	Member alternative 1	Member alternative 2
ENTRESTO	Non-PDL	Lisinopril tablet	losartan tablet
GLUCAGEN	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
GLUCAGEN DIAGNOSTIC	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
GLUCAGEN HYPOKIT	Non-PDL	Gvoke PFS 1-pack subcutaneous syringe	Gvoke HypoPen 1-pack subcutaneous auto-injector
IBRANCE	Non-PDL	Verzenio tablet	
INLYTA	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
INSULIN GLARGINE	Non-PDL	Insulin glargine-yfgn subcutaneous pen	insulin glargine-yfgn subcutaneous solution
INSULIN GLARGINE SOLOSTAR	Non-PDL	Insulin glargine-yfgn subcutaneous pen	insulin glargine-yfgn subcutaneous solution
KALETRA	Non-PDL	lopinavir-ritonavir 100 mg-25 mg tablet	lopinavir-ritonavir 200 mg-50 mg tablet
LORBRENA	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
NUBEQA	Non-PDL	Xtandi 40 mg tablet	Xtandi 80 mg tablet
PROCRIT	Non-PDL	Retacrit injection solution	
RESTASIS	Non-PDL	Cyclosporine eye drops in a dropperette	
RESTASIS MULTIDOSE	Non-PDL	Cyclosporine eye drops in a dropperette	
SEMGLEE	Non-PDL	Insulin glargine-yfgn subcutaneous pen	insulin glargine-yfgn subcutaneous solution
TRUE METRIX AIR GLUCOSE METER	Non-PDL	True Metrix Air Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1490-02, 56151-1491-02 are preferred)	True Metrix Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1470-02 is preferred)
TRUE METRIX GLUCOSE METER	Non-PDL	True Metrix Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1470-02 is preferred)	True Metrix Air Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1490-02, 56151-1491-02 are preferred)
TRUE METRIX GLUCOSE TEST STRIP	Non-PDL	True Metrix Glucose Test Strip (NDC 56151-1460-01, 56151-1460-04, 56151-1461-01, 56151-1461-04 are preferred)	
TRUE METRIX GO	Non-PDL	True Metrix Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1470-02 is preferred)	True Metrix Air Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1490-02, 56151-1491-02 are preferred)

Drug name	Action	Member alternative 1	Member alternative 2
TRUE METRIX GO BLOOD GLUCOSE METER	Non-PDL	True Metrix Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1470-02 is preferred)	True Metrix Air Glucose Meter (NDC 56151-1490-02, 56151-1491-02 are preferred)
TRULANCE	Non-PDL	Linzess capsules	
VAXELIS	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
VENTAVIS	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
XALKORI	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	
ZORTRESS	Non-PDL	Everolimus (immunosuppressive) tablet	
ZOSTAVAX	Non-PDL	Member should consult physician	



Updates made to the 2023 medication preauthorization and notification list

Humana's PT committee establishes and maintains the preauthorization list (PAL). The committee met in August 2022 and approved PAL changes, effective Jan. 1, 2023. Members are notified of negative changes at least 30 days before the effective date. For the latest version of the PAL, please visit [Humana.com/PAL](https://www.humana.com/PAL) and select "**January 1, 2023, Humana Healthy Horizons in South Carolina (Medicaid) Preauthorization and Notification List.**"

Brand	Generic	Code	Comment
Abraxane	paclitaxel-nab	J9264	addition
Asceniv	immune globulin	J1554	addition
Belrapzo	bendamustine hydrochloride	J9036	addition
Bendamustine	bendamustine hydrochloride	J9036	addition
Blenrep	belantamab mafodotin-blmf	J9037	addition
Carimune NF	immune globulin	J1566	addition
Cutaquig	immune globulin	C9399, J3490, J3590, J1551 (Added 7/1/2022)	addition
Gel-One	sodium hyaluronate	J7326	addition
Hyqvia	immune globulin	J1575	addition
Kanjinti	trastuzumab-anns	Q5117	addition
Levoleucovorin	levoleucovorin calcium	J0641	addition
Lutathera	lutetium Lu 177 dotatate	A9513	addition
Ontruzant	trastuzumab-dttb	Q5112	addition
Prolastin-C	alpha 1-proteinase inhibitor	J0256	addition

Brand	Generic	Code	Comment
Stelara (subcutaneous)	ustekinumab	J3357	addition
Synagis	palivizumab	90378	addition
Uplizna	inebilizumab-cdon	J1823	addition
Veletri	epoprostenol	J1325	addition
Xembify	immune globulin	J1558	addition
Xyntha Solofuse	antihemophilic factor [recombinant]	J7185	addition

Concurrent clinical safety alerts help pharmacies see potential risks before dispensing

As a part of our enterprise-wide opioid strategy, Humana Healthy Horizons® implemented concurrent reviews or safety alerts at the point of service to help pharmacies identify and address potentially inappropriate or unsafe drug therapy before dispensing. Your patients may experience medication claims rejections at their pharmacy if impacted. For further details on Humana Healthy Horizons' point-of-sale safety updates, please visit [Controlled Substances - Drug Utilization Review \(DUR\)](#).

Retrospective drug utilization review helps pharmacies safely dispense prescriptions

Humana Healthy Horizons' Retrospective Drug Utilization Review program supports you in the care of your patients through regular reviews of pharmacy claims data to help detect potentially adverse utilization patterns. You may receive subsequent intervention recommendations via direct mail or fax to alert you to important drug safety issues for your patients. Examples of new campaigns include:

- Asthma inhaled therapy: Prescribers to patients younger than 12 years with an asthma diagnosis who may be receiving an inhaled corticosteroid without a short acting bronchodilator may be notified.
- Concurrent opioid and gabapentinoid utilizers: Prescribers to patients with claims for concurrent opioid and high-dose gabapentinoid therapy (gabapentin dose more than 900 mg/day or pregabalin dose more than 450 mg/day) may be notified.

Get up to date regarding COVID-19 at-home test, treatment and vaccine coverage

Humana Healthy Horizons covers all at-home COVID-19 testing kits. These tests can be administered by the patient to detect current COVID-19 infections. At-home tests do not detect COVID-19 antibodies or previous infections. Members have a \$0 copay on these at-home testing kits.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized certain antiviral medications and monoclonal antibodies to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in people who are more likely to get very sick. Pharmacists have been granted the ability to prescribe Paxlovid to certain patients under emergency use authorization.

The FDA granted emergency use authorization for the following antiviral COVID-19 treatments:

- Paxlovid (nirmatrelavir/ritonavir) for people 12 years and older (oral)
- Lagevrio (molnupiravir) for people 18 years and older (oral)
- Veklury (remdesivir) for people 28 days and older (intravenous infusion)

The FDA granted emergency use authorization for the following monoclonal antibody COVID-19 treatments:

- Bebtelovimab for people 12 years and older (intravenous injection)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 6 months and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant or might become pregnant.

The FDA granted full use authorization for the following COVID-19 vaccines:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccine for people 16 years and older
- The Moderna (Spikevax) COVID-19 vaccine for people 12 years and older

The FDA granted emergency use authorization for the following COVID-19 vaccines:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people 6 months and older
- The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for people 6 months and older
- The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for people 12 years and older
- The Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine for people 18 years and older

The FDA granted emergency use authorization for the following bivalent COVID-19 vaccines, which protect against the original virus and the Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for people aged 5 years and older
- The Moderna COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for people 6 years and older

As a reminder, South Carolina members can obtain their COVID vaccine at any network pharmacy or provider. At this time, Humana Healthy Horizons does not prefer one vaccine product over another.

Please encourage members 5 years and older to get vaccinated. While cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents and young adults have been reported more often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, these reports are rare, and the known and potential benefits of vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. You can locate more information and learn how to report adverse events at the CDC page **Myocarditis and Pericarditis After mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination**.

Ensure members with diabetes diagnoses use preferred blood glucose meters and strips

Humana's preferred blood glucose meters and strips for South Carolina Medicaid are True Metrix Meter and corresponding testing strips manufactured by Trividia. Members who currently use nonpreferred meters and strips will need a new prescription for True Metrix blood glucose meter and test strips. The test strips used with their old meter cannot be used with the new meter.

Members can visit **Trividiahealth.com** to view training videos or call the Trividia Customer Care Team at **800-803-6025** to learn more about using their new blood glucose meter.

Diabetes HEDIS® measures help track quality care for affected members

According to the CDC, diabetes is the most expensive chronic condition in our nation, with \$1 out of every \$4 in US healthcare costs spent caring for people with diabetes. Some more numbers:

- \$237 billion is spent each year on direct medical costs and \$90 billion on reduced productivity.
- 48%-64% of lifetime medical costs for a person with diabetes are complications related to diabetes, such as heart disease and stroke.

Through its accreditation with the **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)**, Humana strives to improve healthcare quality and measurement. To prevent complications in people living with diabetes, enhance their quality of life and improve clinical outcomes, Humana measures clinical performance and consumer experience using Health Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) data. These data are used to analyze gaps and guide improvement interventions.

The following are HEDIS measures that relate to diabetic patient care:

1. Hemoglobin A1c control goal for patients with diabetes (HBD) members 18-75 years old: HbA1C less than 8% (most recent of measurement year)
2. Blood pressure control goal for patients with diabetes (BPD) members 18-75 years old: less than 140/90 mm Hg (most recent of measurement year)
3. Eye exam goal for patients with diabetes (EED) members 18-75 years old: diabetic retinal eye exam
4. Kidney health evaluation goal for patients with diabetes (KED) members 18-85 years old: kidney health evaluation (complete eGFR and uACR)
5. Statin therapy goal for patients with diabetes (SPD) members 40-75 years old (who do not have ASCVD): receive statin therapy (members who were dispensed at least one statin medication of any intensity during the measurement year) and have a statin adherence rate of 80% (members who remain on statin medication of any intensity for at least 80% of treatment period)

Pharmacists can be instrumental in helping patients manage diabetes by offering ongoing education on lifestyle changes, medications and disease state management. They also act as drug therapy experts, encourage medication compliance and provide medication reconciliation following hospital admission. When diabetes is well controlled, long-term complications can be prevented.

Utilization management initiatives highlight a holistic approach to therapeutic class drug evaluations

At Humana Healthy Horizons, we perform a holistic clinical evaluation of every therapeutic class when reviewing our PDL for the next year. The following are a few examples of our therapeutic class evaluations:

- We added oral option Rybelsus for diabetic patients unable or unwilling to use injectable products for our 2023 Humana Managed PDL (SC), while maintaining existing coverage for the injectables.
 - Trulicity and Ozempic injectables have the majority of market share.
 - Disruption to members is a consideration when adjusting preferred products, therefore formulary additions without negative changes result in a positive member experience.

- During evaluation of inhaled corticosteroids for asthma treatment, we noticed a lack of migration to a preferred product, Arnuity Ellipta, in the current year.
 - We moved Arnuity Ellipta off our formulary without member impacts.
 - We replaced Arnuity Ellipta with fluticasone propionate HFA, the authorized generic product for Flovent HFA.
 - Educating the provider that the generic product meets treatment needs, along with Humana’s quick response for inclusion of the generic to the 2022 PDL, met the prescribing needs and bridged the gap of generic product availability.

Improve care and reduce costs through Humana Healthy Horizons’ specialty medication programs

Humana Healthy Horizons has several specialty programs that promote high-quality care and decrease costs of specialty medications for our members. Our multidisciplinary taskforce uses a team of Humana associates to influence specialty medication utilization for rare diseases via thorough case review. The goal is to improve patient outcomes and mitigate spending. Smart maintenance dose is a point-of-sale edit for specialty medications with a higher loading dose and lower maintenance dose that rejects claims in excess of the recommended maintenance dose once the loading dose is fulfilled.

Prescribe covered drugs quickly with our common PDL quick reference

The pharmacy team develops and maintains a reference document called the Common PDL. This quick reference was developed for both prescribers and our internal care teams to outline the most prescribed medications along with less expensive alternatives for our Medicaid population. The Common PDL is updated as needed to align with Humana’s preferred drug list changes.

[Common PDL →](#)

Humana Healthy Horizons evaluates utilization trends and new drug therapies to improve the health of members

Humana’s PT committee monitors trends in utilization and new drug therapies as they come to market. Prior authorization and coverage are determined after evaluation using industry proven clinical resources, including FDA approval information, peer-reviewed medical literature, evidence-based effectiveness studies and clinical practice guidelines. Then we create evidence-based formularies or PDLs and utilization management requirements, including prior authorization, quantity limits and step therapies. To learn more, visit the medical and pharmacy coverage policies webpage.

[Coverage policies →](#)

Find our preauthorization and notification list for healthcare providers online

The preauthorization and notification list (PAL) describes services and medications that are commonly reviewed and may require additional clinical information. Medications include those delivered in the physician's office, clinic, outpatient or home setting.

[PAL list →](#)

Look for general pharmacy news on our pharmacy news website

Find pharmacy-related safety alerts, drug recalls, new generic drug announcements and other medication information on the pharmacy news webpage.

[Pharmacy news →](#)

References:

“The Health and Economic Benefits of Diabetes Interventions,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last accessed Dec. 9, 2022, www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/programs-impact/pop/diabetes.htm.

Melissa Johnson et al., “Evaluation of an Academic-Community Partnership to Implement MTM Services in Rural Communities to Improve Pharmaceutical Care for Patients with Diabetes and/or Hypertension,” *Journal of Managed Care + Specialty Pharmacy* 24 (February 2018): 132–141, accessed Dec. 9, 2022, www.doi.org/10.18553/jmcp.2018.24.2.132.