



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association

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TO: NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: October 31, 2017

RE: Empire Plan's Prescription Drug Flexible Formulary Changes for 2018

As you know, changes to the Empire Plan's Prescription Drug Flexible Formulary can be made once a year, effective the new plan year. Below are the changes for 2018.

A total of 10 drugs will be added to the list of exclusions; 1 drug will move up a tier; a total of 18 drugs will move down a tier; 1 previously excluded drug will be added back on the formulary (Tier 2); and 1 drug will be removed from exclusions due to the fact the product is discontinued. Specifics are as follows:

Exclusions:

Drug Name

Use

Extavia (interferon 3-1b) injection	multiple sclerosis
Horizant (gabapentin enacarbil extended release) tablets	postherpetic neuralgia (nerve pain)
Neupogen (filgrastim) injection	neutropenia (low white (blood cells)
Norditropin (somatropin) injection	growth failure
Pennsaid (diclofenac sodium) 2% topical solution	osteoarthritis (joint pain)
Sitivig (acyclovir) buccal tablets	cold sores
Tivorbex (indomethacin) capsules	pain relief
Tobi (tobramycin) inhalation solution	lung infection in cystic fibrosis
Tobi Podhaler (tobramycin) inhalation powder	lung infection in cystic fibrosis
Vivlodex (meloxicam) capsules	pain relief

Uptier:

Cardura XL

Benign prostatic hyperplasia
(BPH)

Downtiers:

Belbuca
Belviq XR
Bethkis
Byvalson
Entresto
Esbriet
Glyxambi

Invokamet XR
Lumigan
Neudexta
Ofev
Qtern

Soliqua

Synjardy XR
Tysabri
Vosevi
Vraylar
Xultophy

CIII Opioids – chronic pain
antiobesity
cystic fibrosis
beta blocker combinations
congestive heart failure (CHF)
pulmonary fibrosis agents
antidiabetics – DPP4/SGLT2
combinations
antidiabetics – SGLT2s
prostaglandins
pseudoBulbar affect
pulmonary fibrosis agents
antidiabetics – DPP4/SGLT2
combinations
antidiabetics – basal/GLP-1
combinations
antidiabetics – SGLT2s
multiple sclerosis - infused
hepatitis C
antipsychotics
antidiabetics – basal/GLP-1
combinations

Drug from Exclusions Added Back on Formulary at Tier 2:

Zomig Nasal

migraine (nasal)

Drug Removed From Exclusions – Product Discontinued:

Metozolv

gastrointestinal

As a result of the changes, a total of 56 NYSCOPBA members (46 Corrections/10 Law Enforcement) will be affected by the exclusions; 0 members will be affected by the move from Preferred to Non-Preferred; 0 members will be affected by the move from Generic to Preferred; and 72 members (67 Corrections/5 Law Enforcement) will be affected by the Downtier to Preferred.

Disruption letters will be mailed to those members affected by the excluded drugs. Participating providers in the Empire Plan will receive the 2018 Flexible Formulary around the same time. Affected members should speak with their provider regarding their scripts and possible alternatives.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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cc: NYSCOPBA Executive Board
NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee on Health Benefits