

Highmark Update

This email is intended for broker with business in Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Important Updates for Prescription Drug Coverage Effective July 1, 2024 - Formulary Deletions and Utilization Management Updates

Highmark continually reviews the most current research to ensure our members have access to the safest and most cost-effective treatment options. One of our most important concerns is the safe and effective use of prescription drugs for our members. As a result, there are two important changes coming effective July 1, 2024 – **(1) Formulary Deletions** and **(2) Utilization Management Updates**. Details for both changes are below.

Formulary Deletions

Beginning on July 1, 2024 there will be several prescription drugs removed from Highmark formularies. This is an industry standard practice with deletions being made two times per calendar year. There will be 11 prescription drugs removed from the Commercial Comprehensive Formulary, two removed from the Healthcare Reform Comprehensive Formulary, seven removed from the Healthcare Reform Essential Formulary, and 19 removed from coverage on the Commercial National Select Formulary. Impacted members and their providers will receive a letter notifying them of the change and a list of available covered alternatives to consider.

Single-source brand deletions for fully-insured members in New York will occur upon renewal. For all other regions and funding arrangements, the deletions will occur on July 1, 2024.

Members with a Closed formulary may have their doctor submit a non-formulary coverage request to continue taking the same medication, or they will be responsible for the full cost of that medication. Members with an Incentive formulary will have an increased cost-share on the medication as it moves to a non-preferred tier.

Utilization Management Updates

Also beginning on July 1, 2024 there will be 11 prescription drugs that will require Step Therapy. Medications in scope include things for treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) or erosive esophagitis, high cholesterol and triglyceride levels, acne, and dry eye.

Members and their prescribing physicians who are impacted by either the Formulary Deletions or the Utilization Management Updates will be alerted via letters in the mail. Members should follow up with their doctor to discuss appropriate alternative therapy options. Members may also contact Member Service by using the number on the back of their ID card if they have any questions about their benefits.

Questions?

Please reach out to your Sales Executive or Client Manager.

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