



# Provider Issue Briefing

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## Contra Costa Health Plan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

The CCHP P&T committee met on 1/6/2017. Updates from the meetings are outlined below:

### The committee approved the following changes to the Preferred Drug List (PDL):

- Phenergan with codeine syrup and Phenergan VC with codeine syrup quantity limits have been updated. Codeine-containing cough medications will now be **limited to 240mL per fill, AND a maximum of 1 fill per 30 days.**

**\*\*Changes to the PDL will be effective in February 2017\*\***

### Reminder regarding Current CCHP limits on Colcrys (colchicine):

- Colchicine is a covered benefit for acute gout exacerbation (without authorization). Members are able to receive **#15 tablets every 60 days.**
- If your patient requires chronic colchicine therapy (defined as a need for >15 tablets every 60 days), prior authorization will be required. Current CCHP criteria for approval of chronic colchicine therapy is below:
  1. Documented trial and failure or intolerance to at least one (1) formulary urate-lowering therapy such as allopurinol or probenecid. **OR**
  2. Concurrent use of a urate-lowering agent.

**\*\*The utilization criteria above are a result of changes made in the 2012 American College of Rheumatology Guidelines for Management of Gout (part 2). The ACR task force states "that pharmacologic ULT (urate lowering therapy) could be started during an acute gout attack, providing that effective anti-inflammatory management has been instituted."**

### Reminder regarding CCHP Sample Policy:

- The practice of dispensing samples that have not been reviewed by the plan's Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee undermines the purpose of having a Preferred Drug List.
- Dispensing samples of drugs that have not been reviewed by the P&T Committee or are not preferred drugs listed on the PDL creates an expectation for the member that CCHP will cover the provided medication without having the medication reviewed.

**Providing samples of non-preferred medications is strictly prohibited by CCHP policy.**

**AND**

**For purposes of prior authorization (PA) processing, providing samples does not constitute continuation of therapy – the continuation rules do not apply in these cases.**

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**Reminder: BP Monitors are now covered as a pharmacy benefit for Medi-Cal members:**

Blood pressure monitors are now covered as a pharmacy benefit for CCHP Medi-Cal members (NOT commercial plan members).

- Available as a pharmacy benefit **without prior authorization** (no need to send a DME order – simply send the electronic order to any network pharmacy just as you would send an e-Rx order).
- Preferred BP monitors are currently the Omron 3 series, and the Omron 5 series.
- Kits currently come with the “wide range cuff”, which fits arms from 9”-17”. There is NOT currently a peds or XL cuff available.
- Order sets have been created in Epic: listed under “**BP monitor covered by CCHP**”.
- Limited to 1 monitor per Medi-Cal member every 5 years.



3 series NDC: 73796-0271-04

5 series NDC: 73796-0274-24

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**There are numerous ways to view the CCHP Preferred Drug List:**

CCHP updates the Preferred Drug List (PDL) after each quarterly Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee meeting. CCHP invites and encourages practitioners to access each update through the following means:

- An interactive searchable formulary is available within Epic (contact the Epic team with any questions related to functionality).
- A printable copy of the CCHP PDL can be found here: <http://cchealth.org/healthplan/pdf/pdl.pdf>
- A searchable copy of the CCHP PDL can be found here: <http://formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteID=MMRREQ3QBC>
- **EPOCRATES – free mobile & online formulary resource**
  - CCHP providers may add the CCHP formulary to their mobile devices using the following steps:
    - Go to [www.epocrates.com](http://www.epocrates.com) and click on “My Account” in the top right.
    - Sign in with your Epocrates username and password, if needed.
    - Click on "Edit Formularies."
    - Follow the on screen instructions to select and download formularies or to remove formularies (plan name in Epocrates is Contra Costa Health Plan).
    - Update your device, and the formularies on your mobile device will be changed accordingly.



Epocrates mobile is supported on the iOS (iPhone, iTouch, iPad), Android, & BlackBerry platforms

If you have any questions about the installation or use of Epocrates, please contact Epocrates Customer Support at [goldsupport@epocrates.com](mailto:goldsupport@epocrates.com) or at (800)230-2150.

Providers may request a copy of CCHP pharmacy management procedures or specific drug PA criteria by contacting the pharmacy unit directly at 925-957-7260 x2, or via the email listed below:

P&T updates can be viewed online at <http://cchealth.org/healthplan/provider-pharmacy-therapeutics.php>

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Questions and comments may be directed to CCHP Pharmacy by emailing  
[cchp\\_pharmacy\\_director@hsd.cccounty.us](mailto:cchp_pharmacy_director@hsd.cccounty.us)