



Provider Issue Briefing

CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH PLAN
595 Center Avenue
Suite 100
Martinez, CA 94553
925.313.6000
Date: September 2023

Contra Costa Health Plan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T)

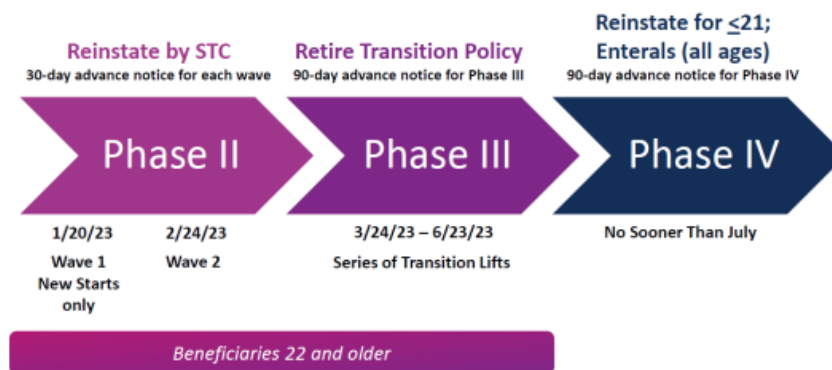
The CCHP P&T committee met on 9/7/2023. Updates from the meeting are outlined below:

****Changes to the PDL will be effective by mid-October 2023****

Updates/Announcements:

1. Schedule for Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement of Prior Authorization Requirements:

Reinstatement Phase II – Phase IV



Medi-Cal Rx is moving forward with reinstatement for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older with the initiation of Phase IV through a series of lifts impacting claim utilization management (UM) edits (such as age limits, labeler restrictions, quantity limits, diagnosis, etc.).

The purpose of this alert is to notify pharmacy providers and prescribers that on August 4, 2023, Phase IV, Lift 1 (P4/L1) will be the first lift impacting claim UM edits for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older.

Note: Claims for beneficiaries 21 years of age and younger will not be impacted.

On September 22, 2023, PA requirements will be reinstated for new start enteral nutrition products for members **22 years of age and older**. "New starts" are defined as new enteral nutrition therapy not previously prescribed to the member during the 15-month lookback period. PA requests may also be submitted in advance of the retirement of the Transition Policy (anticipated implementation in November 2023) for enteral nutrition products, for members 22 years of age and older, beginning September 22, 2023.

For additional details including the specific medications in each phase, please go to the DHCS Medi-Cal Rx website at <https://www.medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/home/education/> or contact CCHP Pharmacy Department for more details.

2. Commercialization of COVID-19 Vaccines

September 11, 2023

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to authorize updated COVID-19 vaccines to target the Omicron XBB1.5 variant in the coming days. Unlike the existing COVID-19 vaccines, the new commercialized vaccines will no longer be supplied free by the federal government for most members. Medi-Cal Rx seeks to inform pharmacy providers of upcoming changes with the commercialization of the COVID-19 vaccines:

- Pharmacy providers will be reimbursed for the ingredient cost for the commercialized NDCs, in addition to the \$40 incentive fee. A supplemental professional dispensing fee remains excluded for COVID-19 vaccines.
- For members 6 months through 18 years of age, coverage of the vaccine will be available only through the Vaccines For Children (VFC) program. Products remain federally funded. To locate an eligible provider, visit <https://eziz.org/> or call 1-877-243-8832.
- Uninsured and underinsured adults may obtain free COVID-19 vaccines through [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)'s Bridge Access Program](#). The vaccines can be accessed through local pharmacies and health care providers, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

For CCHP Commercial members, **COVID vaccines are covered** at our network Walgreens and Rite Aid pharmacies.

3. Medi-Cal Rx Formulary Changes:

Medi-Cal Rx has been updating their Contract Drug List (CDL) on a monthly basis. These updates can be found on the DHCS Medi-Cal Rx website at <https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/provider/pharmacy-news> or contact the CCHP Pharmacy Department for additional details.

CCHP Commercial Member Formulary Changes:

Quick reference table for all changes to the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and/or Prior Authorization (PA) criteria (for full details of each change, please see individual drugs listed below this table or contact the CCHP Pharmacy Department):	
Changes Made	Drug Name
Created new PA criteria:	RSV agents Adalimumab (Humira) biosimilars Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta)
Modified PA criteria:	Hepatitis B medications
ADDED to the CCHP formulary:	Abrysvo (respiratory syncytial virus vaccine) Arexvy (respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, adjuvanted) Apriso (mesalamine ER) capsules Additional brands of Oral inhaler Spacers
Removed from CCHP formulary:	Galzin (zinc acetate) capsules Tobradex (tobramycin/dexamethasone) eye ointment Pentasa (mesalamine ER) capsules ProChamber Spacer

- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Abrysvo (respiratory syncytial virus vaccine):** added to the CCHP commercial formulary with no restrictions
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Arexvy (respiratory syncytial virus vaccine, adjuvanted):** added to the CCHP commercial formulary with an age limit of greater than 60 years old
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Beyfortus (nirsevimab-alip):** will be approved if member is less than 1 year old. If member is less than 2 years old and entering their second RSV season, it will be approved if the member remains at increased risk for RSV disease due to being severely immunocompromised, chronic lung disease of prematurity requiring medical support, congenital heart disease, cystic fibrosis or American Indian or Alaska Native ethnicity
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for adalimumab biosimilars:** As of January 1, 2024, adalimumab-fkjp and Hadlima (adalimumab-bwvd) will be added to the CCHP commercial formulary without prior authorization. All other forms of adalimumab will require prior authorization with criteria of why adalimumab-fkjp or Hadlima (adalimumab-bwvd) cannot be tried
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Mircera (methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta):** must have a diagnosis of anemia secondary to chronic kidney disease with a hemoglobin <10 g/dL and/or hematocrit <30%
- **Modification of pharmacy criteria for hepatitis B medications:** added Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) and entecavir (Baraclude) to the CCHP formulary for commercial members. For Vemlidy (tenofovir alafenamide fumarate), criteria includes trial and failure, contraindication or inability to use entecavir (Baraclude) and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Viread)

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: <https://cchealth.org/healthplan/formulary.php>



- **EPOCRATES – free mobile & online formulary resource**

- CCHP providers may add the CCHP formulary to their mobile devices using the following steps:
 - Open the Epocrates application on your mobile device.
 - Click on the “formulary” button on the home screen.
 - Click “add new formulary” button on the bottom of the screen.
 - Use the search box to locate “Contra Costa Health Plan” Medi-Cal or Commercial formulary. Click on each formulary that you would like to add, and then click the “add formulary” button.

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 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 x1, or via the email listed below:

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

Questions and comments may be directed to CCHP Pharmacy by emailing
joseph.cardinalli@cchealth.org