

Step therapy – Premium

Utilization management updates
Jan. 1, 2024



Most medical conditions have many medication options. Although their clinical effectiveness may be the same, the costs can be very different. The step therapy program gives you the treatment you need, usually at a lower cost.

This is a list of medications that have been added to the step therapy program.

Here's how it works:

With this program, you must try a step 1 medication first, before a step 2 medication may be covered. When you bring a prescription to your pharmacy, our system will check the medication for step therapy requirements. If your pharmacy claims show you have tried a step 1 medication in the recent past, the step 2 medication may be filled. If not, the pharmacist will contact your doctor to explain next steps.

If you see your medication listed, we encourage you to talk with your doctor about your treatment and medication options. If you have questions about the step therapy program, call the phone number on your Optum Rx member ID card.

Step therapy medications

The following medications have been added to a step therapy program. This means you must try a lower-cost medication (step 1) before a higher-cost medication (step 2) is covered.

Condition	Step 1	Step 2
Anti-infectives		
Bacterial vaginosis agents	Any one of the following generics: metronidazole 0.75% vaginal gel, clindamycin 2% vaginal cream	VANDAZOLE
	Any one of the following generics: metronidazole 0.75% vaginal gel, clindamycin 2% vaginal cream, metronidazole tablet, tinidazole tablet	SOLOSEC
Oral brand tetracyclines	Any one of the following generics: doxycycline or minocycline	VIBRAMYCIN
	Both of the following generics: doxycycline AND minocycline	SEYSARA
Otic agents	Generic ofloxacin	CETRAXAL
Cardiovascular		
Renin-angiotensin system agents	Any one of the following generics: amlodipine-benazepril, amlodipine-olmesartan, benazepril, benazepril-HCTZ, candesartan, candesartan-HCTZ, captopril, captopril-HCTZ, enalapril, enalapril-HCTZ, fosinopril, fosinopril-HCTZ, irbesartan, irbesartan-HCTZ, lisinopril, lisinopril-HCTZ, losartan, losartan-HCTZ, moexipril, olmesartan, olmesartan-HCTZ, olmesartan-amlodipine-HCTZ, perindopril, quinapril, quinapril-HCTZ, ramipril, telmisartan, telmisartan-HCTZ, trandolapril, trandolapril-verapamil	EDARBI, EDARBYCLOR, TEKTURNIA HCT
Fibric acid derivatives	Any one of the following generics: fenofibric cap, fenofibrate tab, fenofibrate micronized cap, fenofibric acid tab AND preferred brand LIPOFEN or fenofibrate cap	FENOGLIDE, FIBRICOR
Statins	Any one of the following generics: atorvastatin, fluvastatin, fluvastatin ER, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin	ALTOPREV, EZALLOR, FLOLIPID
Central Nervous System		
ADHD agents	Any one of the following generics: amphetamine-dextroamphetamine IR/ER, dexamethylphenidate IR/ER, dextroamphetamine IR/SR, methylphenidate IR/ER	AZSTARYS², JORNAY PM²
	Any three of the following generics or preferred brand: amphetamine-dextroamphetamine IR/ER, dexamethylphenidate IR/ER, dextroamphetamine IR/SR, methylphenidate IR/ER	ADDERALL XR², APTENSIO XR², CONCERTA², DESOXYN², DEXEDRINE², EVEKEO-ODT², METHYLIN² solution, PROCENTRA², RELEXXI²
	Any two of the following generics: atomoxetine, guanfacine, clonidine	KAPVAY
Anticonvulsants ³	Any one of the following generics: lamotrigine IR, levetiracetam IR/ER, oxcarbazepine IR, topiramate IR	BRIVIACT, XCOPRI
	Any one of the following generics: topiramate IR or topiramate IR sprinkle	topiramate ER
Antidepressants ³	Generic bupropion ER	APLENZIN²
	Any two of the following generics: desvenlafaxine ER, duloxetine, venlafaxine, venlafaxine ER	FETZIMA²
	Any two of the following generics: bupropion, citalopram, desvenlafaxine ER, duloxetine, escitalopram, fluoxetine, mirtazapine, paroxetine, paroxetine ER, sertraline, venlafaxine, venlafaxine ER	DESVENLAFAXINE ER², PAXIL suspension, TRINTELLIX²
	Generic duloxetine	DRIZALMA²
Antidepressants	Generic vilazodone	VIIBRYD²
Antipsychotics ³	Any two of the following generics: aripiprazole, asenapine, clozapine, olanzapine, paliperidone, quetiapine IR/ER, risperidone, ziprasidone	CAPLYTA², FANAPT²
	Any one of the following brands: INVEGA SUSTENNA or INVEGA TRINZA	INVEGA HAFYERA
Insomnia agents	Any one of the following generics: doxepin, eszopiclone, temazepam, zaleplon, zolpidem, zolpidem ER	BELSOMRA², DAYVIGO²
	Any one of the following generics: zolpidem, zolpidem ER	EDLUAR²
Migraine agents	Any two of the following generics: almotriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan	sumatriptan-naproxen ² , ZOMIG NASAL², ZOLMITRIPTAN SPRAY²

Bold type = Brand-name drug

Plain type = Generic drug

Condition	Step 1	Step 2
Neurologic agents	Generic gabapentin	GRALISE ²
	Any one of the following generics: amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, duloxetine, gabapentin, pregabalin	pregabalin ER ² , SAVELLA ²
Non-narcotic analgesics	Any two of the following generics: celecoxib, diclofenac potassium tab, diclofenac sodium, diflunisal, etodolac, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamate, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, piroxicam, sulindac, tolmetin	diclofenac capsule, diclofenac powder, INDOCIN suppository, INDOCIN suspension, INDOMETHACIN capsules, LOFENA, MELOXICAM susp, TIVORBEX, VIVLODEX
Opioid withdrawal	Generic clonidine	LUCEMYRA ²
Parkinson's disease	Any one of the following generics: carbidopa-levodopa, carbidopa-levodopa CR	RYTARY
	Generic entacapone	ONGENTYS
	Both of the following generics: rasagiline, selegiline	XADAGO ²
Dermatology		
Rosacea	Any one of the following generics or preferred brands: azelaic acid gel, FINACEA FOAM, SOOLANTRA	FINACEA GEL, ZILXI
Skin cancer agents	Any one of the following generics: fluorouracil, imiquimod 5%	diclofenac gel 3% ²
	Both of the following generics: fluorouracil, imiquimod 5%	KLISYRI
	Generic imiquimod 5%	imiquimod 3.75%
Topical immunomodulators	Generic tacrolimus ointment	pimecrolimus ² , PROTOPIC² ointment
	Any one of the following generics: alclometasone, amcinonide, betamethasone, clobetasol, clocortolone, desonide, desoximetasone, diflorasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide, fluticasone, halcinonide, halobetasol, hydrocortisone, mometasone, prednicarbate, triamcinolone, pramoxine-HC, calcipotriene-betamethasone, tacrolimus, pimecrolimus	EUCRISA
	Any three of the following generics or preferred brands: clocortolone 0.1% cream, fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% ointment, flurandrenolide 0.05% ointment, fluticasone propionate 0.05% cream, hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% ointment, mometasone furoate 0.1% cream/lotion/solution, triamcinolone 0.1% cream/ointment, triamcinolone 0.05% ointment, triamcinolone aerosol spray, calcipotriene-betamethasone suspension, TACLONEX suspension, ENSTILAR foam	SERVINO
Endocrinology		
Diabetic agents	Any one of the following generics: metformin, metformin ER, glipizide-metformin, glyburide-metformin, pioglitazone-metformin	CYCLOSET, RIOMET
DPP4 inhibitors	Any one of the following generics: metformin, metformin ER, glipizide-metformin, glyburide-metformin, pioglitazone-metformin	JANUMET, JANUMET XR, JANUVIA, JENTADUETO, JENTADUETO XR, TRAJENTA
GLP-1 agonists	One metformin-containing agent	SOLIQUA², XULTOPHY²
Thyroid Replacement	Generic levothyroxine	ADTHYZA, ARMOUR THYROID
Gastroenterology		
Constipation agents	Any one of the following generics: lactulose, polyethylene glycol	LINZESS², SYMPROIC²
	Any one of the following generics: lactulose, polyethylene glycol AND preferred brand LINZESS¹	MOTEGRITY²
Proton pump inhibitors	Any two of the following generics: dexlansoprazole, esomeprazole, omeprazole, lansoprazole, pantoprazole, rabeprazole	ACIPHEX SPRINKLE², ESOMEPRAZOLE STRONTIUM², LANSOPRAZOLE susp, FIRST-OMEPRAZOLE, PRILOSEC PACKET², PROTONIX PACKET²
Miscellaneous		
Antigout agents	Generic allopurinol	ULORIC , febuxostat
Iron replacement	Any one of the following generics: ferrous sulfate, ferrous gluconate, ferrous fumarate	FERAHEME , ferumoxytol, INJECTAFER, MONOFERRIC

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Plain type = Generic drug

Condition	Step 1	Step 2
Phosphate binders	Any two of the following generics: calcium carbonate, calcium acetate, lanthanum carbonate, sevelamer carbonate, sevelamer HCl	FOSRENOL, PHOSLYRA
Obstetrics and Gynecology		
Contraceptives	Any one of the following generics: Gemmily, Merzee, norethindrone-ethinyl estradiol-ferrous fumarate	TAYTULLA
Hormone replacement	Any one of the following preferred brands: IMVEXXY, OSPHENA, PREMARIN VAGINAL CREAM	FEMRING²
	Any two of the following preferred brands: IMVEXXY, OSPHENA, PREMARIN VAGINAL CREAM	INTRAROSA
	Generic estradiol patch	ALORA, MENOSTAR, MINIVELLE
Oncology		
Antifolate agent ³	Generic pemetrexed	ALIMTA, PEMETREXED, PEMFEXY
Chemotherapy rescue agents	Generic levoleucovorin	KHAPZORY
Ophthalmology		
Antiglaucoma agents	All of the following generics and preferred brand: latanoprost, travoprost, LUMIGAN	XELPROS²
Ophthalmic antihistamines	Both of the following generics: azelastine AND olopatadine	bepotastine
Respiratory		
Epinephrine auto injectors	Generic epinephrine	EPIPEN
Leukotriene modifiers	Any one of the following generics: montelukast, zafirlukast	zileuton ER, ZYFLO
Long-Acting Bronchodilator Combinations	Any one of the following preferred brands: ADVAIR HFA, BREO ELLIPTA, SYMBICORT	fluticasone/salmeterol diskus ² , Wixela Inhub ²
Urology		
BPH agents	Any two of the following generics: alfuzosin, doxazosin, silodosin, tamsulosin, terazosin	CARDURA XL
	Any one of the following generics: alfuzosin, doxazosin, tamsulosin, terazosin, silodosin AND any one of the following generics: finasteride, dutasteride, tadalafil 5 mg	ENTADFI²
Overactive bladder agents	Any two of the following generics or preferred brand: fesoterodine, oxybutynin IR/ER, tolterodine IR/ER, trospium IR/ER, solifenacin, darifenacin ER, MYRBETRIQ	GELNIQUE, OXYBUTYNIN solution, OXYTROL²
Generic First		
	Generic equivalent	PYLERA

Step therapy requirements are effective as of Jan. 1, 2024. The list of step therapy medications is subject to change without notice. Step therapy requirements may vary by benefit plan. Additional clinical programs, including quantity limits and prior authorization, may exist for the above medications which may affect your prescription drug coverage.

¹ These agents are also subject to additional step requirements as indicated in table.

² Quantity limits may also apply. Please refer to the Premium Quantity Limits document.

³ Applies to new starts only



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