
2010 3rd Quarter Formulary Update

Several changes have been made to the 3-Tier Formulary effective July 1, 2010, based on Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee decisions as well as generic introductions. With most new generic introductions, the brand version of the drug is moved to Tier 3 of the Formulary (with the highest co-pay) upon widespread market availability of the generic. This acts to encourage use of the most cost-effective alternative. The Serve You Formulary promotes the use of generics whenever possible and we thank our network pharmacists for educating patients about generic availability and dispensing a generic when appropriate.

The quarterly changes include:

Estrogen and Progestin Combination Therapies

In the category of estrogen/progestin therapies, Activella and Femhrt were moved to Tier 3 of the Formulary.

Activella and Femhrt are used primarily to treat vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause.

Remaining preferred alternatives on the Formulary include a Tier 1 generic option (estradiol/norethindrone acetate) as well as the Tier 2 preferred brand options Premphase and Prempro.

Atypical Antipsychotics

In the category of atypical antipsychotics, Invega was moved to Tier 3 of the formulary.

Patients using Invega are encouraged to talk to their doctor about the Tier 1 lower cost generic alternative risperidone (generic Risperdal) or the Tier 2 preferred brand options Abilify, Geodon, Seroquel, Seroquel XR, and Zyprexa.

Atypical antipsychotics are used to treat schizophrenia and other mood disorders.

Proton Pump Inhibitors

To encourage the use of lower cost generic alternatives whenever possible, Prevacid Solutab was moved to Tier 3 of the Formulary.

Patients using Prevacid Solutab are encouraged to talk to their doctor about the use of a Tier 1 generic like omeprazole (generic Prilosec), lansoprazole (generic Prevacid), or pantoprazole (generic Protonix). If brand therapy is necessary, the preferred product on Tier 2 of the Formulary is Nexium.

Overactive Bladder Medications

In the category of medications used to manage the symptoms of Overactive Bladder (OAB), Toviaz was moved to Tier 3 of the Formulary.

Remaining preferred OAB options on the Formulary include the Tier 1 generic oxybutynin ER (generic for Ditropan XL) as well as the Tier 2 preferred brand options Detrol, Detrol LA, and Vesicare.

Notable Generic Introductions

As announced in the Spring 2010 issue of Rx Benefit Insights, generic equivalents are now available for the blood pressure medications Cozaar (losartan) and Hyzaar (losartan with HCTZ), the benign prostatic hypertrophy drug Flomax (tamsulosin), and the topical anti-wart medication Aldara (imiquimod).

As generic versions for these medications are now widely available, the brand-name equivalents Cozaar, Hyzaar, Flomax, and Aldara have been moved to Tier 3 of the Formulary to encourage use of the lower cost generic equivalents whenever possible.

The updated Formulary will be posted on the Serve You website beginning July 1, 2010. **Groups using the Serve You 2-Tier (Open) Formulary are not affected by these changes.** Members currently utilizing the 3-Tier Formulary and taking a medication that has moved from Tier 2 to Tier 3 due to a P&T Committee decision will be contacted by mail with information regarding this Formulary change. These members will be provided with a one month grace period where the Tier 2 co-pay will continue to apply and allow them time to discuss alternatives with their prescriber. If you have questions regarding the Serve You Formulary, please contact Member Services at 800-759-3203.