



Provider Issue Briefing

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

The CCHP P&T committee met on 6/14/2024. Updates from the meeting are outlined below:

****Changes to the PDL will be effective by mid-July 2024****

Updates/Announcements:

1. Expansion of CCHP Commercial Plans Retail Pharmacy Network:

As of mid-February 2024, the CCHP Commercial Plan Retail Pharmacy Network has expanded greatly. CCHP Commercial plan members will now be able to fill their prescriptions almost all major pharmacy chains including CVS, Costco, Wal-Mart, Safeway, Raleys, Walgreens and Rite Aid, as well as many independent pharmacies across the country. Please contact the CCHP Pharmacy Department if there are questions as to whether or not a retail pharmacy is included in the new expanded network.

2. Physician Administer Medications for CCHP Members:

As a reminder, please note that physician administered medications can be billed to CCHP using the member’s medical benefit with CCHP. CCHP Medi-Cal members have their retail pharmacy medications billed to Medi-Cal Rx and their medical benefit billed to CCHP which includes physician administered medications.

3. Real Time Benefit Check Tools:

Please remember that providers and members have access to online pharmacy benefits checks. Providers can check a member’s pharmacy benefit coverage via the prescribing provider’s EMR/EHR platform. Please contact the CCHP Pharmacy Department for further information or if there are any questions about access.

4. 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:	Continuous Glucose Monitors Rezdifra (resmetirom) Eohilia (budesonide) VEGF receptor inhibitors Elmiron (pentosan polysulfate sodium)
Modified PA criteria:	Rexulti (brexpiprazole) Nucynta (tapentadol)

	Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Receptor Antagonists (CGRP)
ADDED to the CCHP formulary:	Aimovig (erenumab-aooe) Ajoovy (fremanezumab-vfrm)
Removed from CCHP formulary:	Emgality (galcanezumab-gnlm) Nurtec ODT (rimegepant)

- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Continuous Glucose Monitors:** member must have either insulin dependence OR history of problematic hypoglycemia OR pregnancy related diabetes
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Rezdifra (resmetirom):** provider must be a hepatologist, gastroenterologist or a specialist in the treatment of liver disease, diagnosis of NASH, documentation of stage F2 to F3 fibrosis by biopsy or noninvasive test, provider counseling on nutrition, exercise and avoiding excess alcohol intake
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Eohilia (budesonide):** prescribed by or in consultation with a gastroenterologist, allergist, immunologist or other provider who specializes in the treatment of eosinophilic esophagitis, diagnosis of eosinophilic esophagitis confirmed by biopsy, trial and failure of a proton pump inhibitor and trial and failure to an inhaled corticosteroid that can be swallowed
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for VEGF inhibitors:** created preferred agent list of bevacizumab, Byooviz, Lucentis and Eylea. Preferred medications must be used for a compendia supported indication and dosing. Requests for approval of non-preferred medications must include documentation of trial and failure of a preferred VEGF inhibitor
- **New Pharmacy Criteria for Elmiron (pentosan polysulfate sodium):** prescriber must be a urologist, OB/GYN or other specialist in the treatment of genitourinary disorders, diagnosis of bladder pain or discomfort associated with interstitial cystitis and a trial and failure of amitriptyline, cimetidine or hydroxyzine
- **Modification of pharmacy criteria for Rexulti (brexpiprazole):** added criteria for the diagnosis of agitation associated with Alzheimer’s disease
- **Modification of pharmacy criteria for Nucynta (tapentadol):** removed the requirement that member must be 18 years old since Nucynta IR is now approved for younger ages. Also inserted requirements for the correct indication since IR and ER are for different pain indications
- **Modification of pharmacy criteria for Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Receptor Antagonists (CGRP):** prior authorization is still required but moved Aimovig and Ajoovy to preferred status and Emgality and Nurtec ODT to non-preferred status

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
[Pharmacy and Therapeutics | Contra Costa Health \(cchealth.org\)](http://Pharmacy and Therapeutics | Contra Costa Health (cchealth.org))

Questions and comments may be directed to CCHP Pharmacy by emailing
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