News

20-823 Medication Trend Updates and Preferred Drug List Changes - 4th Quarter 2020

Date: 10/22/20

This information applies to Physicians and Participating Physician Groups (PPGs).

For Medi-Cal, this information applies to Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.

Summary

Review changes that improve patient safety and encourage medication adherence

Stay up-to-date with information about:

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling update for opioid pain medicines and opioid use disorder (UOD) medicines by recommending increased access to naloxone
- Naloxone and other FDA-approved drugs under Assembly Bill (AB) 2760
- Health Net uses biosimilars
- Alternative sites of infusion care for commercial and Medi-Cal members
- Changes to the Health Net* commercial *Formulary, Medi-Cal Preferred Drug List (PDL)* and Medicare Part D *Formulary* for the fourth quarter of 2020

FDA labeling update for opioid pain medicines and opioid use disorder medicines by recommending increased access to naloxone

In July 2020, the FDA announced labeling for opioid analgesics and medicine to treat OUD must be updated to recommend that health care professionals discuss the availability of naloxone with patients and caregivers, both when beginning and renewing treatment and should consider co-prescribing naloxone to patients at increased risk of opioid overdose in the following conditions:

- All patients prescribed medications for OUD (e.g., buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone).
- For all patients prescribed opioid pain medicines who are at increased risk of opioid overdose, including those who are also taking benzodiazepines or other medicines that depress the central nervous system; those who have a history of OUD; and those who have experienced a prior opioid overdose.
- For patients prescribed opioids who have household members, including children, or other close contacts at risk for accidental ingestion or opioid overdose.

The FDA is requiring that these recommendations are added to the prescribing information for opioid pain medicines and medicines to treat OUD, including buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone.

Naloxone hydrochloride and other FDA-approved drugs

To address the opioid overdose epidemic, Assembly Bill (AB) 2760 requires prescribers to offer naloxone or another drug approved by the FDA for high-risk patients. Prescribing naloxone is also an opportunity to initiate a discussion with patients on the risk of overdose.

AB 2760 states that prescribers must:

- Offer a prescription for naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression to a patient when one or more of the following conditions are present:
  - The prescription dosage for the patient is 90 or more morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day.
  - An opioid medication is prescribed concurrently with a prescription for a benzodiazepine.
  - The patient presents with an increased risk for overdose, including a patient with a history of overdose, a patient with a history of substance use disorder, or a patient at risk for returning to a high dose of opioid medication to which the patient is no longer tolerant.
- Provide education to patients receiving a prescription for overdose prevention, and the use of naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression.
- Provide education about overdose prevention and the use of naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression to one or more persons designated by the patient, or, for a patient who is a minor, to the minor's parent or guardian.

Health Net uses biosimilars

The FDA regulates biosimilar manufacturing to ensure they scientifically demonstrate safety and effectiveness while showing no clinically meaningful differences to existing biologic medicines. Biosimilars tend to cost less which can help lower the overall cost of care for members while still providing quality care.

Effective September 1, 2020, Health Net started using the following biosimilars for commercial and Medi-Cal members. For all new starts, the patient must try and fail (or have contraindications to) the preferred biosimilar before the referenced name product will be approved. Specific prior authorization guidelines can be found on the provider portal.

REFERENCE PRODUCT (NON-PREFERRED)	PREFERRED BIOSIMILAR(S)
Epogen®, Procrit® (epoetin alfa)	Retacrit® (epoetin alfa-epbx)
Neupogen® (filgrastim)	Zarxio® (filgrastim-sndz)
Neulasta® (peg-filgrastim)* **requires Zarxio® step requirement*	• Udenyca® (pegfilgrastim-cbqv) • Fulphila® (pegfilgrastim-jmdb) • Ziextezo™ (pegfilgrastim-bmez)
Remicade®	• Inflectra® (infliximab-dyyb) • Renflexis® (infliximab-abda)
Rituxan®	Ruxience® (rituximab-pvvr)
Avastin® (for non-ophthalmic diagnoses)	• Mvasi™ (bevacizumab-awwb) • Zirabev™ (bevacizumab-bvcr)
Herceptin®	• Ogivri® (trastuzumab-dkst) • Trazimera™ (trastuzumab-qyyp)

Alternative sites of infusion care for commercial and Medi-Cal members

The plan has options available for members who are being treated with any of the infusion products listed in the table on page 3. Members have the option to transition infusions from the hospital to the home, an ambulatory infusion suite (AIS) or a nearby physician's office. Alternate site of infusion care is part of a member's standard benefits.

Health Net has partnered with Coram® CVS Specialty™ Infusion Services as the designated preferred provider for these infusions. Coram provides more than 35 years of experience; certified clinicians who specialize in drug therapy and patient monitoring; offers the convenience of in-home infusions with clinical support available 24/7; and, infusions may be offered at a lower cost to patients.

For patient referrals or additional information, contact Peter Tran, Pharm.D, at (714) 934-3362, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and reference the Site of Care Optimization of Therapeutic Infusion (SCOTI) Program.

Products eligible for alternative site of infusion care

DISORDER	PRODUCT	DISORDER	PRODUCT
ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY	Aralast™ NP, Glassia®, Zemaira®	**LYSOSOMAL STORAGE DISORDERS**	Aldurazyme®, Cerezyme®, Elaprase®, Elelyso®, Fabrazyme®, Kanuma®, Lumizyme®, Naglazyme®, Vimizim®, Vpriv®
AMYLOIDOSIS	Onpattro®	**MOVEMENT DISORDERS**	Radicava®
ASTHMA	Cinqair®, Fasenra®, Nucala®, Xolair®	**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**	Lemtrada®, Ocrevus®, Tysabri®
AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS	Actemra®, Avsola™, Entyvio®, Inflectra®, Orencia®, Remicade®, Renflexis®, Simponi Aria®	**OCULAR DISORDERS**	Tepezza®
HEREDITARY ANGIOEDEMA	Cinryze®	**PAROXYSMAL NOCTURNAL HEMOGLOBINURIA**	Soliris®, Ultomiris®
IMMUNE DEFICIENCIES AND RELATED DISORDERS	Asceniv®, Bivigam®, Carimune®, Cuvitru®, Flebogamma®, Gammagard® Liquid, Gammagard® S/D, Gammaked™, Gammaplex®,	**RARE DISORDERS**	Crysvita®
		SICKLE CELL DISEASE	Adakveo®

	Gamunex®-C, Hizentra®, Hyqvia®, Octagam®, Panzyga®, Privigen®, Xembify®	**SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**	Benlysta®

Changes to the commercial *Formulary, Medi-Cal PDL* and Medicare Part D *Formulary*

A list of recent changes to the Health Net commercial *Formulary, Medi-Cal PDL* and Medicare Part D *Formulary* is available in the complete provider update 20-823, *Learn About Medication Trend Updates and Formulary Changes – 4th Quarter 2020*. The list contains brand-name prescription medications, status, alternatives, and comments.

The complete update, 20-823, is available below. You may request a print copy by contacting the Health Net Provider Communications Department (mailto:provider.communications@healthnet.com).

Complete lists of the commercial *Formularies, Medi-Cal PDLs* and Medicare Part D *Formularies* are available on the Health Net Provider website (http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com). Once on the website, the lists are viewable under *Pharmacy Information*.

Pharmacy help line

For more information regarding changes to the Health Net commercial *Formulary, Health Net Medi-Cal PDL* or Medicare Part D *Formulary*, contact the applicable pharmacy telephone number listed below:

- **Pharmacy Services (commercial):** 1-800-548-5524, option #3; fax 1-800-314-6223
- **Pharmacy Service Center (Medi-Cal, Medicare and Cal MediConnect):** 1-800-867-6564; fax 1-800-977-8226
- **Health Net Clinical Pharmacy Line (clinical programs):** 1-800-782-222

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the applicable Health Net Provider Services Center within 60 days, by telephone or through the Health Net provider website as listed in the right-hand column on page 1.

†Any transfer of information or data between providers and/or facilities about a member's OUD or SUD must first be authorized by the member before transferring the information or data between providers and/or facilities. This can be done by having the member sign an Authorization for Disclosure (AFD) form and designating the provider or entity that will be reviewing the member's data.

Complete

Review changes that improve patient safety and encourage medication adherence

Stay up-to-date with information about:

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling update for opioid pain medicines and opioid use disorder (UOD) medicines by recommending increased access to naloxone
- Naloxone and other FDA-approved drugs under Assembly Bill (AB) 2760
- Health Net uses biosimilars
- Alternative sites of infusion care for commercial and Medi-Cal members
- Changes to the Health Net* commercial *Formulary, Medi-Cal Preferred Drug List (PDL)* and Medicare Part D *Formulary* for the fourth quarter of 2020

FDA labeling update for opioid pain medicines and opioid use disorder medicines by recommending increased access to naloxone

In July 2020, the FDA announced labeling for opioid analgesics and medicine to treat OUD must be updated to recommend that naloxone availability be discussed as a routine part of prescribing these medicines. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist. If administered promptly after overdose by individuals with or without medical training, it may reverse the effects, often within minutes.

The FDA recommends that health care professionals discuss the availability of naloxone with patients and caregivers, both when beginning and renewing treatment and should consider co-prescribing naloxone to patients at increased risk of opioid overdose in the following conditions:

- All patients prescribed medications for OUD (e.g., buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone.
- For all patients prescribed opioid pain medicines who are at increased risk of opioid overdose, including those who are also taking benzodiazepines or other medicines that depress the central nervous system; those who have a history of OUD; and those who have experienced a prior opioid overdose.
- For patients prescribed opioids who have household members, including children, or other close contacts at risk for accidental ingestion or opioid overdose.

The FDA is requiring that these recommendations are added to the prescribing information for opioid pain medicines and medicines to treat OUD, including buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone. Patients should speak with their health care professional about how to obtain naloxone according to their state's requirements or guidelines.

Naloxone hydrochloride and other FDA-approved drugs

To address the opioid overdose epidemic, Assembly Bill (AB) 2760 requires prescribers to offer naloxone or another drug approved by the FDA for high-risk patients. Prescribing naloxone is also an opportunity to initiate a discussion with patients on the risk of overdose.

AB 2760 states that prescribers must:

- Offer a prescription for naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression to a patient when one or more of the following conditions are present:
  - The prescription dosage for the patient is 90 or more morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day.
  - An opioid medication is prescribed concurrently with a prescription for a benzodiazepine.
  - The patient presents with an increased risk for overdose, including a patient with a history of overdose, a patient with a history of substance use disorder, or a patient at risk for returning to a high dose of opioid medication to which the patient is no longer tolerant.
- Provide education to patients receiving a prescription for overdose prevention, and the use of naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression.
- Provide education about overdose prevention and the use of naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the FDA for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression to one or more persons designated by the patient, or, for a patient who is a minor, to the minor's parent or guardian.

Health Net uses biosimilars

The FDA approved safe and effective medicines that are highly similar to existing biologic medicines. The FDA regulates biosimilar manufacturing to ensure they scientifically demonstrate safety and effectiveness while showing no clinically meaningful differences. Biosimilars tend to cost less than their brand name counterparts which can help lower the overall cost of care for members while still providing quality care.

Effective September 1, 2020, Health Net began using the following biosimilars over their brand counterparts for commercial and Medi-Cal members. For all new starts, the patient must try and fail (or have contraindications to) the preferred biosimilar before the referenced name product will be approved.

Specific prior authorization guidelines can be found on the provider portal.

REFERENCE PRODUCT (NON-PREFERRED)	PREFERRED BIOSIMILAR(S)
Epogen®, Procrit® (epoetin alfa)	Retacrit® (epoetin alfa-epbx)
Neupogen® (filgrastim)	Zarxio® (filgrastim-sndz)

Neulasta® (peg-filgrastim)* **requires Zarxio® step requirement*	• Udenyca® (pegfilgrastim-cbqv) • Fulphila® (pegfilgrastim-jmdb) • Ziextezo™ (pegfilgrastim-bmez)
Remicade®	• Inflectra® (infliximab-dyyb) • Renflexis® (infliximab-abda)
Rituxan®	Ruxience® (rituximab-pvvr)
Avastin® (for non-ophthalmic diagnoses)	• Mvasi™ (bevacizumab-awwb) • Zirabev™ (bevacizumab-bvcr)
Herceptin®	• Ogivri® (trastuzumab-dkst) • Trazimera™ (trastuzumab-qyyp)

Alternative sites of infusion care for commercial and Medi-Cal members

The plan has options available for members who are being treated with any of the infusion products listed in the table below. Members have the option to transition infusions from the hospital to the home, an ambulatory infusion suite (AIS) or a nearby physician's office. Alternate site of infusion care is part of a member's standard benefits.

Health Net has partnered with Coram® CVS Specialty™ Infusion Services as the designated preferred provider for these infusions. Coram provides:

- **Experience.** More than 35 years of experience in specialized infusion care and demonstrated expertise in the delivery and administration of complex specialty infused medications. The only national home infusion provider accredited by The Joint Commission.
- **Safety.** Clinicians are certified and specialize in delivery of chronic and complex drug therapy and careful patient monitoring. Experienced nurses stay for the entire infusion duration ensuring patients receive high-level care.
- **Convenience.** In-home and AIS-based infusions are scheduled directly with patients, enabling flexibility, independence and enhanced quality of life. Clinical support is available to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **Lower costs.** Infusions may be provided at a lower cost to patients promoting compliance to therapy and ultimately improve outcomes and reduce health costs.

For patient referrals or additional information, contact Peter Tran, Pharm.D, at (714) 934-3362, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and reference the Site of Care Optimization of Therapeutic Infusion (SCOTI) Program.

Products eligible for alternative site of infusion care

DISORDER	PRODUCT	DISORDER	PRODUCT

ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY	Aralast™ NP, Glassia®, Zemaira®	**LYSOSOMAL STORAGE DISORDERS**	Aldurazyme®, Cerezyme®, Elaprase®, Elelyso®, Fabrazyme®, Kanuma®, Lumizyme®, Naglazyme®, Vimizim®, Vpriv®
AMYLOIDOSIS	Onpattro®	**MOVEMENT DISORDERS**	Radicava®
ASTHMA	Cinqair®, Fasenra®, Nucala®, Xolair®	**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**	Lemtrada®, Ocrevus®, Tysabri®
AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS	Actemra®, Avsola™, Entyvio®, Inflectra®, Orencia®, Remicade®, Renflexis®, Simponi Aria®	**OCULAR DISORDERS**	Tepezza®
HEREDITARY ANGIOEDEMA	Cinryze®	**PAROXYSMAL NOCTURNAL HEMOGLOBINURIA**	Soliris®, Ultomiris®
IMMUNE DEFICIENCIES AND RELATED DISORDERS	Asceniv®, Bivigam®, Carimune®, Cuvitru®, Flebogamma®, Gammagard® Liquid, Gammagard® S/D, Gammaked™, Gammaplex®, Gamunex®-C, Hizentra®, Hyqvia®, Octagam®, Panzyga®, Privigen®, Xembify®	**RARE DISORDERS**	Crysvita®
		SICKLE CELL DISEASE	Adakveo®
		SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS	Benlysta®

Changes to the commercial *Formulary*, Medi-Cal PDL and Medicare Part D *Formulary*

The Health Net Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, which includes practicing physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals, reviews medications on the *Formulary* for commercial members, *PDL* for Medi-Cal members and the Medicare Part D *Formulary* for Medicare members each quarter to determine medications to stay on or be moved to a different tier. A list of some recent changes is provided in a table below. The list contains brand-name prescription medications, status, other medication choices, and comments for the fourth quarter of 2020.

Complete lists of the commercial *Formularies, Medi-Cal PDLs* and Medicare Part D *Formularies* are available on the Health Net provider website as listed below under *Pharmacy Information*.

Pharmacy help line

For more information regarding changes to the Health Net commercial *Formulary*, *Health Net Medi-Cal PDL* or Medicare Part D *Formulary*, contact the proper pharmacy telephone numbers listed below:

- **Pharmacy Services (commercial):** 1-800-548-5524, option #3; fax 1-800-314-6223
- **Pharmacy Services Center (Medi-Cal, Medicare and Cal MediConnect):** 1-800-867-6564; fax 1-800-977-8226
- **Health Net Clinical Pharmacy Line (clinical programs):** 1-800-782-2221

Health Net Commercial Formulary, Medi-Cal PDL and Medicare Part D Formulary Changes

MEDICATION	STATUS			HEALTH NET FORMULARY ALTERNATIVE(S)			COMMENTS
	Commercial 3-Tier Plan (4-Tier Plan)	Medicare Part D Value[1]	Medi-Cal	Commercial (Tier 1 or 2)	Medicare Part D Value[1] (Tier 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6)	Medi-Cal	
Inrebic® (fedratinib) capsule	NP* (Specialty Tier *)	Tier 5 (*for new starts only)	NF	Jakafi® (under Tier 3 plan)	Jakafi***	Jakafi**	Treatment of adult patients with intermediate-2 or high risk primary or secondary (post-polycythemia vera or post-essential thrombocythemia) myelofibrosis (MF)

Rozlytrek® (entrectinib) capsule	Tier 2* (Specialty Tier*)	Tier 5 (* for new starts only)	NF	Under Tier 3 plan at Tier 2*: ROS1 positive: Xalkori®, Lorbrena® NTRK fusion positive tumors: Vitrakvi® Under Tier 4 plan at Specialty Tier*: ROS1 positive: Xalkori®, Lorbrena® NTRK fusion positive tumors: Vitrakvi®	ROS1 positive: Xalkori® ***, Lorbrena® *** NTRK fusion positive tumors: Vitrakvi® ***	ROS1 positive: Xalkori® *,**	Treatment of the following: • Adult patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) whose tumors are ROS1-positive. • Adult/pediatrics ≥ 12 years of age with solid tumors: • neurotrophic tyrosine receptor kinase (NTRK) gene fusion w/o known acquired resistance mutation, and • metastatic or surgical resection likely to result in severe morbidity, and • progression following treatment or no satisfactory alternative therapy

[1]Medicare Part D Value Formulary = Health Net Seniority Plus Amber I (HMO SNP), Health Net Seniority Plus Amber II (HMO SNP), Health Net Healthy Heart (HMO)

*Prior authorization (PA) is required to verify member eligibility and that the member satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.

**CCS = California Children's Services: refer to www.dhs.ca.gov for the local telephone number to determine member's coverage eligibility.

***Prior authorization (PA) for new start only is required to verify member eligibility and that the member satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.

- F indicates formulary.
- NF indicates nonformulary; NP indicates nonpreferred. These medications require member-specific medical reasons why formulary medications cannot be considered. Requests are reviewed via Health Net's prior authorization process.

†Any transfer of information or data between providers and/or facilities about a member's OUD or SUD must first be authorized by the member before transferring the information or data between providers and/or facilities. This can be done by having the member sign an Authorization for Disclosure (AFD) form and designating the provider or entity that will be reviewing the member's

data.

Additional information

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the applicable Health Net Provider Services Center within 60 days at:

LINE OF BUSINESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	PROVIDER PORTAL	EMAIL ADDRESS
EnhancedCare PPO (IFP)	1-844-463-8188	provider.healthnetcalifornia.com (http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com/)	provider_services@healthnet.com (mailto:provider_services@healthnet.com)
EnhancedCare PPO (SBG)	1-844-463-8188	provider.healthnet.com (http://provider.healthnet.com/)	provider_services@healthnet.com (mailto:provider_services@healthnet.com)
Health Net Employer Group HMO, POS, HSP, PPO, & EPO	1-800-641-7761	provider.healthnet.com (http://provider.healthnet.com/)	provider_services@healthnet.com (mailto:provider_services@healthnet.com)
IFP (CommunityCare HMO, PPO, PureCare HSP, PureCare One EPO)	1-888-926-2164	provider.healthnetcalifornia.com (http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com/)	provider_services@healthnet.com (mailto:provider_services@healthnet.com)
Medicare (individual)	1-800-929-9224	provider.healthnetcalifornia.com (http://provider.healthnetcalifornia.com/)	provider_services@healthnet.com (mailto:provider_services@healthnet.com)
Medicare (employer group)	1-800-929-9224	provider.healthnet.com (http://provider.healthnet.com/)	provider_services@healthnet.com (mailto:provider_services@healthnet.com)

Medi-Cal	1-800-675-6110	provider.healthnet.com (http://provider.healthnet.com/)	

Last Updated: 10/22/2020