

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



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Split Fill Program for Selected, Orally Administered Oncology Medications

Orally administered oncology medications have the potential to produce severe or frequent side effects that sometimes require discontinuation of therapy. When a full regimen is dispensed at one time, waste and medication disposal are costly and inconvenient factors that can be addressed by a split fill program. Beginning February 1, 2014, Prime Therapeutics Specialty Drug Pharmacy, on behalf of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross), will initiate a Split Fill Program for Sutent®, Nexavar®, and Tarceva®. The program is intended for Blue Cross subscribers who have a Specialty Pharmacy benefit and are new to therapy for the first month. If there is a side effect or dose reduction, the program may be continued into the second month. Drugs selected for the program are based on potential for severe or frequent side effects that would require discontinuation of therapy, as well as high cost.

Subscriber and provider cost impact

There is no additional cost to providers for the service. There is no additional cost to Blue Cross subscribers, as one copayment amount is split and each half is applied when therapy is initiated or continued.

Illustration of the subscriber and provider experience

- A new oral oncology medication prescription for a patient is received by Prime Therapeutics Specialty Drug Pharmacy and is approved to fill.
- A patient care coordinator calls the patient to schedule delivery explain the split fill program and to seek approval for subscriber participation. A review of therapy, dosing regimen, potential side effects and patient's readiness to begin therapy is also assessed.
- Continuation of Therapy (e.g., Day 11): patient care coordinator contacts patient to set up delivery of balance of split fill and transfers to a clinician to assess adherence and side effects.
 - If the subscriber cannot be reached for a continuation-of-therapy confirmation, the prescriber/care facility will be called to seek confirmation of continuation or a change in therapy.
 - If there are tolerance issues, a clinician collects information and consults with the prescriber as needed to determine if intervention is needed: dose change, therapy change, discontinuation.
 - If there are no tolerance issues, the balance of the prescription is shipped to the patient.