

# Quick Points



May 18, 2009

## Formulary exception process update for Minnesota Health Care Programs

Effective May 19, 2009, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Blue Minnesota and Blue Plus will require formulary exception procedures for members enrolled in Blue Advantage (PMAP, GAMC, MSC/MSC+), MinnesotaCare, SecureBlue (MSHO)/CareBlue (SNBC) non-Medicare members and FirstPlan Blue (PMAP, GAMC), MinnesotaCare, Medicare SNPs (wrap only), FirstPlan Blue MSHO, and FirstPlan Blue Basic without exception. This means that as of May 19, 2009, prescriptions written as DAW will not process at point of sale until a formulary exception has been received.

### Anti-psychotic drugs

For anti-psychotic drugs prescribed to treat a diagnosed mental illness or emotional disturbance that are not on the GenRx formulary:

The health care provider prescribing the drug must certify the following to Blue Cross in writing:

1. The provider has considered all equivalent drugs on the formulary and has determined that the drug prescribed will best treat the patient's condition
2. The drug must be dispensed as written (DAW)

### All other drugs

For all other drugs not on the GenRx formulary: the health care provider prescribing the drug must follow formulary exception procedures to request an exception:

The health care provider prescribing the drug must do *one* of the following:

1. attest that the formulary drug causes an adverse reaction in the patient
2. attest that the formulary drug is contraindicated for the patient
3. attest that the patient has tried and failed at least three (or as many as available, if fewer than three) formulary alternatives for the diagnosis being treated with the requested medication
4. demonstrate in writing to Blue Cross that the provider has considered all equivalent drugs on the formulary and has determined that the drug prescribed will best treat the patient's condition

The prescriber may be required submit medical records that support the medical necessity for the prescribed non-formulary drug.

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### **DAW for non-formulary drugs**

Effective May 19, 2009, prescriptions entered with a DAW for non-formulary drugs will not process at the point of sale until the prescriber has also completed the second part of the process. Members will be directed to work with their provider to determine if a formulary drug may work for them. If the provider determines that the non-formulary drug will best treat the member's condition, a formulary exception request must be submitted on the member's behalf.

### **What does this mean for you?**

As of May 19, 2009, prescriptions written as DAW will not process at point of sale until the certification or demonstration has been received. Members will be directed to contact their provider to determine if a formulary drug may work for them. If the provider determines that the non-formulary drug will best treat the member's condition, a formulary exception request must be submitted on the member's behalf.

### **What steps should you take?**

Determine which of your patients' current prescription drugs written as DAW are not on the GenRx drug list. To determine which drugs are on the GenRx formulary, visit **providers.bluecrossmn.com** to view the list of drugs available to Minnesota Health Care Programs members. Under the "Tools & Resources" tab, choose "formulary and special program drug lists." Then click on "see the lists" under "Blue Cross formularies" and select "GenRx".

### **What if a member tries to fill a DAW prescription for a drug not listed in GenRx?**

The prescription will **not** be filled by the pharmacy until the certification or demonstration has been received and approved. The member will be referred back to the prescribing physician for a new prescription and/or a formulary exception submission on their behalf.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact provider service at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.