



QUICK POINTS

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
and Blue Plus

September 19, 2008

New Formulary (GenRx) for Minnesota Health Care Programs

The prescription drug formulary is changing under Minnesota Health Care Programs.

Starting October 1, 2008, a new formulary will apply for members covered under Minnesota Health Care Programs, as defined in your provider service agreement(s). These programs are commonly referred to as Blue Advantage or Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), Prepaid General Assistance Medical Care (PGAMC), Minnesota Senior Care/Minnesota Senior Care+ (MSC/MSC+), MinnesotaCare, SecureBlue and CareBlue.

The name of this new drug formulary is **GenRx**. This new formulary offers drugs that have been shown to be safe and effective, while being cost conscious. The GenRx formulary consists of almost all generics, with the exception of a few generics which were not included on the new formulary due to safety or efficacy concerns. A limited number of brand-name drugs will be on formulary to provide appropriate coverage of most disease states.

What does this mean for you?

You may need to prescribe a different drug to a Minnesota Health Care Programs member that treats the same symptoms or condition. Please be aware that most of our SecureBlue and CareBlue members have a Medicare Part D formulary and will not be affected.

What steps should you take?

Determine which of your patients' current prescription drugs will not be on the GenRx drug list. To determine which drugs are on the new GenRx formulary, visit bluecrossmn.com after September 25, 2008 to view the list of drugs available to Minnesota Health Care Programs members. Under the orange "Quick Links" tab, choose "prescription drugs." Then click on "Search the drug lists." When the pop up window appears, choose the GenRx drug list.

What if a member tries to fill a prescription for a drug not listed in the new formulary?

The prescription will **not** be filled by the pharmacy. The member will be referred back to the prescribing physician for a new prescription.

Additional information regarding glucose testing meters

Starting October 1, 2008, the new GenRx drug formulary for Minnesota Health Care Programs members will include only the Bayer CONTOUR[®] and BREEZE[®] 2 glucose testing meters and strips. All other meters and test strips will be removed from the drug list.

Please route this information to other interested staff.

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These members can get a Bayer CONTOUR or BREEZE 2 meter at **no cost** from September 25, 2008 until October 1, 2009. To receive a Bayer meter at no cost, the member can **call 1-888-787-0276**. Members will receive a separate letter regarding this, and will be asked to provide the first four characters of their member ID when calling to request their new meter.

We are committed to helping you make this change and serving these members' health care needs. If the patient and doctor can show that a glucose meter other than the Bayer CONTOUR or BREEZE is the best option for a member's treatment, the provider can ask Blue Plus for a formulary exception. For assistance with this, a member can call the member services number on the back of the member ID card.

Questions?

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