

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



August 22, 2017

New Medical Drug Management Process and Medical Drug Policies

On July 31, 2017, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) implemented a process to evaluate and manage new medical drugs or new medical drug indications as they are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Medical drugs are defined as drugs and biologics, including biosimilars, administered by a healthcare professional, that process under the medical benefit. To support this new medical drug management process, Blue Cross has developed the following medical policies:

- II-173: Accepted Indications for Medical Drugs Which are not Addressed by a Specific Medical Policy
- II-174: Evaluation Process for New FDA-Approved Medical Drugs or Medical Drug Indications

As stewards of healthcare expenditures for our subscribers, Blue Cross is charged with ensuring the highest quality, evidence based care for our members. The primary purpose of the new medical drug management process and policies is to ensure that evidence based care is provided to our members, driving quality, safety, and affordability.

Medical Drug Evaluation Process (Medical Policy II-174):

When the FDA approves new medical drugs, or approves an existing medical drug for a new indication, Blue Cross may desire to conduct further evaluation of a drug, including review of the FDA labeling and published clinical data on the drug's safety, effectiveness, and effect on health outcomes. While the medical drug is under review at Blue Cross, the drug will be added to the Medical Drug Evaluation Process List and not covered until the evaluation process is completed and a determination is made on whether the drug will be approved. To review the drugs currently under evaluation:

- Go to providers.bluecrossmn.com
- Under 'Tools and Resources' select 'Medical policy' and then acknowledge the Acceptance Statement.
- Click on the '+' next to 'Medical and Behavioral Health Policies' to select the Medical Drug Evaluation Process List.

Products Impacted

The new medical drug program and policies will apply to the following lines of business: Commercial, Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), MinnesotaCare (MNCare), and Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+).

Reminder regarding Medical Policy updates and changes:

The new medical policies noted above are available online. Medical Policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Medical and Behavioral Health Policy website. The Upcoming Policies section lists new, revised, or inactivated policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee. To access the policies online:

- Go to providers.bluecrossmn.com
- Under Tools & Resources, select "Medical Policy", and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
- Select the "+" (plus) sign next to "Medical and Behavioral Health Policies" to see the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section

Questions?

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

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