

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



February 5, 2018

New Drug-Related Pharmacy Step Therapy (ST) Program – Ophthalmic Antihistamine

Effective April 1, 2018, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will require ST for select ophthalmic antihistamine products.

The intent of the Ophthalmic Antihistamine ST program is to encourage the use of cost-effective generic ophthalmic antihistamine products before brand ophthalmic antihistamine products. The Ophthalmic Antihistamine ST program will require the use of a generic ophthalmic antihistamine product before approval of a brand product. Subscribers who do not meet the ST program requirements will pay full price for continued use of their current brand ophthalmic antihistamine product.

Affected subscribers who recently received a brand ophthalmic antihistamine product that will be subject to ST will be notified and directed to contact their providers to discuss the covered formulary treatment choices and whether making a change is right for them.

Ophthalmic Antihistamine Step Therapy Targeted Drugs (Brands Only)
Bepreve (bepotastine)
Elestat (epinastine)
Emadine (emedastine)
Lastacaft (alcaftadine)
Patanol (olopatadine)
Pataday (olopatadine)
Pazeo (olopatadine)

Products impacted

This notice applies to commercial lines of business.

The new Pharmacy ST program will be posted by April 1, 2018, and can be accessed using the Blue Cross provider link.

- Access **providers.bluecrossmn.com**
- Under Tools and Resources, select Medical policy, then acknowledge the Acceptance statement
- Select Utilization Management
- Select Pharmacy Utilization Management Programs

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Distribution: Available on providers.bluecrossmn.com. <https://www.bluecrossmn.com/healthy/public/personal/home/providers/forms-and-publications>

CoverMyMeds for step therapy request service

As a reminder, CoverMyMeds (CMM) is a free service to providers which allows quick and easy submission of ST requests. Experience with CMM by other plans has demonstrated marked reductions in physician office call-backs regarding ST requests, after CMM is implemented. ST requests may also continue to be faxed to their review destination external to the CMM portal, as is the current practice.

You may access CMM at www.covermyeds.com. Select Help (top right of the web page) to view FAQs and Support tutorials (3-5 minutes), including live online chat support to help you get started. You will need to open a CMM account to submit requests using the portal.

Questions?

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