

# PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



October 11, 2023

### **Blue Cross Response to Medical Oncology Drug Shortage of Cisplatin and Carboplatin**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) is aware of and monitoring drug shortages in the United States with the oncology drugs carboplatin and cisplatin. To help ensure Blue Cross members have no disruption in care and access to treatment, Blue Cross has implemented the following:

- eviCore, the Utilization Management vendor that conducts prior authorization for medical oncology drugs for our Commercial Fully Insured, Medicare Advantage, and some Commercial Self-Insured groups, is currently allowing the approval of both carboplatin and cisplatin on one authorization to give providers flexibility to make the decision on treatment day according to what is in stock. Prior authorization is not required for cisplatin or carboplatin for other Commercial Self-Insured segments or Medicaid products.
- A process has been implemented that creates a flag for providers to notify the medical oncologist at eviCore that the new authorization request is due to the drug shortage. This ensures the reviews are prioritized and expedited appropriately.
- Platinum substitutions (such as oxaliplatin as an alternative) are allowed in the setting of sufficient evidence showing safety and efficacy even if it is not National Comprehensive Cancer Network ([NCCN](#)) recommended for the specific regimen. A question has been added on the prior authorization requests in eviCore, so in cases where a non-NCCN supported regimen is chosen, the case can be identified as modified due to a drug shortage. This ensures that the reviewers have the appropriate information for the medical review without needing to take an extra step to contact the provider's office. The member cost-share and benefits would be applied the same for these alternative drugs.

#### **Additional Reference Information**

- Please see the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [website](#) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) [website](#) for a list of affected products and resupply dates.

#### **Products Impacted**

- Individual subscribers
- Fully insured commercial subscribers
- Self-insured commercial subscribers (Select Groups)
- Medicare Advantage subscribers

#### **Questions?**

Please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.