

In the News

Formulary and Step Therapy Updates Effective July 1, 2019

Please ensure all appropriate staff within your facility and/or practice review and understand the following formulary and step therapy changes effective July 1, 2019.

Formulary Updates

Effective July 1, 2019, Medical Mutual is updating our National Preferred/National Preferred Plus formulary. The medications included on this [list](#) will no longer be covered or will be changing categories for our members as noted. A full list of medications excluded from the National Preferred/National Preferred Plus formulary is available [here](#).

Please note: The National Preferred/National Preferred Plus formulary applies only to members of specific self-funded large groups that elected this formulary, plus most MedFlex plans.

There are no changes to Medical Mutual's Basic/Basic Plus or High Performance Plus formularies at this time.

Step Therapy Updates

Effective July 1, 2019, we are also updating our step therapy program for prescription drugs. The changes affect all plans that include full coverage management (prior authorization, step therapy, quantity limits), regardless of formulary. The list of categories and drugs we are adding to our step therapy program is available [here](#).

Step therapy promotes the use of less expensive, clinically effective alternative drugs to help manage cost without negatively affecting quality of care. Drugs targeted in the step therapy program as second line are usually brand-name drugs with one or more generic alternatives **or** one or more clinically effective, plan-preferred, brand-name alternatives. These first-line alternatives are typically available for members at lower cost-share tiers.

Members must use a plan-preferred first-line alternative and/or meet criteria before filling a prescription for a second-line medication on or after July 1. If there is a medical reason the member cannot use a plan-preferred, first-line drug, you can request a coverage review through Express Scripts' online portal at esrx.com/PA or by calling 1-800-417-1764 on or after July 1, 2019.

You should receive a letter from Medical Mutual in early June if you have a patient who is a Medical Mutual member and will be affected by these step therapy program changes.

If you have any questions about our formulary or step therapy changes, please contact your Medical Mutual Provider Contracting representative. If you don't know who your representative is, please click [here](#).