



Step therapy for Medicare Part B prescription drugs

Applies *only* to Blue Shield Select (PPO) and Blue Shield Medicare (PPO) plans

Medicare Part B medications are:

- Drugs that you normally would not take yourself. These include drugs that are infused or taken while you visit your physician, outpatient hospital, or ambulatory center or given at home by a visiting nurse.
- Certain outpatient prescription drugs. Examples include:
 - Clotting factors you give yourself by injection if you have hemophilia
 - Immunosuppressive drugs if Medicare helped pay for your transplanted organ
 - Injectable osteoporosis drugs if you are homebound
 - Certain oral anti-cancer drugs if there is also an injectable form
 - Oral anti-nausea drugs when used as a full replacement to injectable anti-nausea drugs
 - Certain drugs for home dialysis such as erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (such as Epogen, Procrit, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp, or Darbepoetin Alfa)

These medications are covered under the Part B benefit. Please refer to your *Evidence of Coverage* (EOC), Chapter 4.

Certain Medicare Part B drugs require a step therapy during the prior authorization review. A step therapy requires you to first try certain drugs to treat your medical condition before another drug is covered. For example, if Drug A and Drug B both treat your medical condition, Blue Shield of California may not cover Drug B unless you try Drug A first. If Drug A does not work for you, Blue Shield of California will then cover Drug B.

If you have any questions, please call Customer Service at the number on your ID card.

Below is the list of medications for your condition that would require step therapy.

Requested drugs		Step therapy
Red blood cell stimulators		
Mircera		Requires a trial of 2 of the following: Retacrit, Procrit, Epogen, or Aranesp
White blood cell stimulators		
Granix		Requires a trial of Zarxio and Nivestym
Neupogen		Requires a trial of Zarxio and Nivestym
Nypozi		Requires a trial of Zarxio and Nivestym
Releuko		Requires a trial of Zarxio and Nivestym
Flynetra		Requires a trial of Nyvepria and Udenyca
Fulphila		Requires a trial of Nyvepria and Udenyca
Neulasta		Requires a trial of Nyvepria and Udenyca
Rolvedon		Requires a trial of Nyvepria and Udenyca
Stimufend		Requires a trial of Nyvepria and Udenyca
Ziextenzo		Requires a trial of Nyvepria and Udenyca
Drugs to suppress the immune system (Anti-TNF)		
Remicade		Requires a trial of Avsola and Inflectra
Renflexis		Requires a trial of Avsola and Inflectra
Enzyme replacement (Gaucher disease)		
Elelyso		Requires a trial of Cerezyme and VPRIV
Drugs used for cancer (Anti-VEGF)		
Alymsys		Requires a trial of Mvasi and Zirabev
Avastin		Requires a trial of Mvasi and Zirabev
Vegzelma		Requires a trial of Mvasi and Zirabev
Drugs used for cancer or to suppress the immune system (monoclonal)		
Riabni		Requires a trial of Ruxience and Truxima
Rituxan		Requires a trial of Ruxience and Truxima
Drugs used for cancer - (HER2-targeted)		
Herceptin		Requires a trial of Kanjinti and Trazimera
Hercessi		Requires a trial of Kanjinti and Trazimera
Herzuma		Requires a trial of Kanjinti and Trazimera
Ogivri		Requires a trial of Kanjinti and Trazimera
Ontruzant		Requires a trial of Kanjinti and Trazimera
Drugs to suppress the immune system (Anti-TNFs, anti-IL inhibitors)		
Imuldosa		Requires a trial of Stelara
Otulfi		Requires a trial of Stelara
Pyzchiva		Requires a trial of Stelara
Selarsdi		Requires a trial of Stelara
Steqeyma		Requires a trial of Stelara
Wezlana		Requires a trial of Stelara
Yesintek		Requires a trial of Stelara

Blue Shield of California (BSC) follows Medicare statutes, regulations, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and policy articles for determining coverage for Part B drug requests when applicable.

BSC Medicare Part B Drug Policies will be used when coverage criteria are not fully established or there is an absence of any applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs.

The company complies with applicable state laws and federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate, exclude people, or treat them differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic group identification, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, mental disability, or physical disability. La compañía cumple con las leyes de derechos civiles federales y estatales aplicables, y no discrimina, ni excluye ni trata de manera diferente a las personas por su raza, color, país de origen, identificación con determinado grupo étnico, condición médica, información genética, ascendencia, religión, sexo, estado civil, género, identidad de género, orientación sexual, edad, ni discapacidad física ni mental. 本公司遵守適用的州法律和聯邦民權法律，並且不會以種族、膚色、原國籍、族群認同、醫療狀況、遺傳資訊、血統、宗教、性別、婚姻狀況、性別認同、性取向、年齡、精神殘疾或身體殘疾而進行歧視、排斥或區別對待他人。