

In the News

Updates to Step Therapy Program

Effective July 15, 2017, Medical Mutual is adding a number of drug categories to our step therapy program. A complete list of drug categories can be accessed in the “Prescription Formulary” section [here](#). Step therapy promotes the use of clinically effective alternative drugs to help manage cost and quality of care. Many of the drugs targeted in the step therapy program as non-preferred (second-line) drugs are brand-name drugs with one or more generic alternative(s). These second-line drugs are typically higher-cost drugs for which other, lower-cost, clinically equivalent alternatives are available.

With step therapy, the claim system searches for a claim for a plan-preferred (first-line) drug within the past 130 days when the pharmacy processes the prescription for a second-line drug. If the system finds a claim for a first-line drug, the member receives automatic authorization to receive the second-line drug, and the claim is processed. If a claim for a first-line drug is not found, the claim is rejected. The pharmacist will receive a message stating step therapy is required including the name of one or more preferred drug(s). If there is a medical reason for why a first-line drug cannot be used or was tried and is not in our records, you can request a Coverage Review. This can be done through the [Prior Approval form](#), [ExpressPAth Portal](#) or by calling Express Scripts directly at (800) 753-2851.

To help further streamline the process, notification letters containing a list of alternatives were mailed in early May to members who have filled a prescription for these medications.