

## PHARMACY COVERAGE

UnitedHealth Group is better together. We'd like to share a quick video clip from Optum and UnitedHealth Group collectively working together to make a difference in the COVID-19 crisis: <https://www.optum.com/content/dam/optum3/optum/en/resources/videos-podcasts/optum-grateful-cv19web.mp4>

### **Will pharmacy coverage or treatment be impacted by COVID-19? Update 8/6,**

The Refill Too Soon edit was reimplemented on July 1 with one exception for Florida which requires the edit to be lifted through August 31, 2020. With COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, members now have the ability to work with their providers and pharmacies for medication updates as necessary. If there is a reason a member needs an early refill, requests can be made through our call centers.

The refill obtained will stay consistent with the standard days' supply previously filled by the member as allowed by their plan (e.g., 30- or 90-day supply).

We continue to monitor and will adjust our policies as appropriate.

Delivery options are available through Optum home delivery, which has no delivery fees for standard deliveries and through select retail pharmacies including Walgreens and CVS, who have waived delivery fees.

### **Can you comment further on the pharmacy supply chain and availability of medications? Can our employees still rely on mail order? Update 6/29,**

We have not seen any delays in dispensing prescriptions related to COVID-19. This includes Optum-owned pharmacies, Optum Home Delivery, Optum Specialty, Optum Infusion Services, Avella, Genoa and Diplomat. We continue to stay closely connected to our other network partners and at this time do not anticipate any delays or supply issues related to prescriptions dispensed through retail pharmacy network.

### **Have any changes been made to the prior authorization program for medications covered through the pharmacy benefit? Are you extending authorizations? Update 6/29,**

Yes, we initially identified prior authorizations expiring for **select** medications between 3/16 and 4/30 and extended them for 90 days. We also identified prior authorizations expiring between 5/1 and 5/31 and have also extended them for 90 days. Medications excluded from the automatic

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extensions include opioids, medications with defined treatment durations, such as treatment for hepatitis C, infertility, as well as other medications with upcoming coverage changes.

### **How is UnitedHealthcare handling the 5/1/2020 PDL changes due to COVID-19-related travel and quarantine restrictions? Update 8/6**

We extended the deadline on some May 1 changes to July 1, 2020 to allow our members additional time to access care, support and resources to transition onto new medications.

The effective date of the exclusion of these medications was extended from 5/1 to 7/1 for the following:

- Diabetes – Insulin: Basaglar KwikPen, Levemir, Levemir FlexTouch, Tresiba (will remain in current tier)  
Medications that will remain excluded until 7/1: Lantus, Lantus SoloSTAR, Toujeo Max SoloSTAR, and Toujeo SoloSTAR
- Diabetes – Non-Insulin: Janumet, Janumet XR, Januvia
- Neuromuscular Disorders: Firdapse

In addition, the effective date was updated from 5/1/20 to 7/1/20 for New Step Therapy for Zomig.

Update via [4/13 ePharmacy News](#): A decision was made to not exclude the following asthma/respiratory medications at this time. These medications will be continued to be covered:

- Arnuity Ellipta®
- Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA
- Pulmicort Flexhaler®

Refer to the 9/1 PDL Updates by watching the via recorded client presentation for changes made to the asthma category of medications. Since the supply chain appears to have stabilized, we made changes to the inhaled steroid category of medications and excluding Alvesco®, Asmanex® products and QVAR® and moving Arnuity Ellipta, Flovent products and Pulmicort Flexhaler to Tier 1.

### **What is UnitedHealthcare's approach to the medication hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for lupus and rheumatoid arthritis and for use for COVID-19? Update 6/29**

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In order to preserve a continued supply for the use of hydroxychloroquine for chronic indications such as systemic lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, UnitedHealthcare implemented quantity limits effective Mar. 28. Based on our ongoing monitoring of utilization, we continue to see a decrease in the number of prescriptions and removed the supply limit effective 5/22. Some network pharmacies and individual states have implemented their own dispensing policies. Members with a prescription for one of these products should consult with their pharmacist.

### **Have any changes been made to the launch date for the Medication Sourcing Expansion program? Update 8/6**

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, UnitedHealthcare has delayed the April 1 launch of Medication Sourcing Expansion (formerly Limited Supplier). This specialty pharmacy requirement directs hospitals to obtain certain specialty medications from a designated specialty pharmacy. The requirement will now be implemented on October 1, 2020, and the new date was announced in the July Network Bulletin

Please share this update with your clients. Medication Sourcing Expansion program slides are available [here](#).

### **How can members sign up for home delivery for their maintenance medications so they can stay at home? New 3/30**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages people to stay at home as much as possible. For UnitedHealthcare Optum Rx members that have pharmacy benefits, maintenance medications (medications taken regularly) can be received directly to their home through the home delivery benefit. Members can enroll online when logged onto myuhc.com and sign up for home delivery. Optum home delivery has no delivery fees for standard delivery.

Delivery options are also available through select retail pharmacies including Walgreens and CVS, who have waived delivery fees. Contact your pharmacy to determine if this is a service they provide.

### **Will UnitedHealthcare and OptumRx take steps to help members and prescribers adjust to supply chain distribution and find equivalent medications in case supply challenges do occur? New 4/17**

Yes, similar to when we experience ordinary course supply challenges, such as out-of-stock or recall situations, we partner with our members, prescribers and supply chain partners to identify alternatives and streamline the process to drive a faster turnaround and ensure our members have the therapy they need when they need it. We are also closely monitoring the supply chain to determine if we need to make any PDL coverage changes.

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### **Does Optum provide for home delivery of medication? New 7/7**

Pharmacy delivery is available through Optum Home Delivery by [signing in to your health plan account](#). Simply select Optum Home Delivery. Pharmacy delivery is also available through several retail pharmacies.

## **Treatment for COVID-19**

### **What is remdesivir (brand name – Veklury)? New 9/16**

Remdesivir is an antiviral medication in clinical trials as a treatment option for COVID-19 infection. Although it is not FDA approved, remdesivir was granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) on 5/1/2020. The EUA is temporary and allows for the distribution and emergency use of remdesivir only for the treatment of hospitalized patients initially with severe COVID-19 disease and updated on 8/28 to allow use to include treatment of all hospitalized adult and pediatric patients with suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, irrespective of their severity of disease. The EUA does not take the place of the formal new drug application submission, review and approval process; remdesivir remains an investigational drug.

### **What is the current Prescription Drug List (PDL) or formulary status of remdesivir? Update 9/16**

Since remdesivir is not an FDA-approved drug and will be administered as part of an inpatient stay, it is not part of the PDL or formulary.

### **Will prior authorization for the drug be required? Update 9/10**

Since remdesivir will be administered as part of a hospital stay, prior authorization for individual treatments is not routinely in place. Typical processes and member benefits, including if pertinent those related to clinical trials, will apply for the inpatient hospital stay.

### **What will be the cost of the drug? Update 9/16**

Initially, Gilead provided at no charge a supply of the drug to the U.S. Government for distribution to hospitals during the EUA. As the donated supply of remdesivir is depleted, the drug will be available from a single U.S. distributor, AmerisourceBergen. The list price for commercial insurers

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for remdesivir is \$520 per 100mg vial and a typical 5-day course (200mg day 1, followed by 100mg for 4 days) will be \$3,120. Some patients may receive up to 10 days of therapy.

### **How will hospitals receive the drug? Update 9/10**

The distribution of the drug will be as follows:

- Gilead will sell remdesivir to AmerisourceBergen
- The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work with state and U.S. territory authorities to identify the hospitals that are eligible to receive drug supply and their twice-monthly allocation
- AmerisourceBergen will proactively confirm the amounts the hospitals want and sell to the hospitals identified by the U.S. government
- AmerisourceBergen will ship remdesivir directly to the hospitals.

### **Will there be a cost for administering the drug? Update 9/10**

This drug will be administered as part of an inpatient stay. Payment for the drug and its administration will be made in accordance with the terms of the hospital's contract.

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