

Medicare Formulary Changes for 2017 - Effective January 1, 2017

This bulletin provides a summary of the 2017 UCare Medicare formulary changes and 2017 UCare Medicare formulary alternatives. These changes are applicable for *UCare for Seniors*, *EssentiaCare* and Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) formularies, unless otherwise specified.

Click the links to view the following documents related to the 2017 UCare Medicare formulary:

- [UCare for Seniors](#)
- [EssentiaCare](#)
- [Minnesota Senior Health Options \(MSHO\)](#)
- [UCare Connect + Medicare](#)

Effective January 1, 2017, medications in Tier 1 (lowest member cost share) will include a number of generic drugs that treat common chronic conditions such as hypertension, cholesterol, low thyroid and diabetes. Tier 2 medications will include most other formulary generic drugs. Many of the 2016 formulary changes are related to the removal or up-tiering of drugs with an equally effective cheaper alternative. High Risk Medications continue to be targeted for removal or managed on the formulary with a prior authorization (PA).

The following list summarizes the changes with the most member/provider impact:

Drugs affected in 2017	Change	2017 Formulary Alternatives
Metformin ER 1000 mg tablets	Up-tiered to Tier 4	Metformin IR 500 mg and 1000 mg tablets, Metformin ER 750 mg tablets
Advair Diskus/HFA Inhaler	Up-tiered to Tier 4 due to availability of more cost-effective alternatives	Dulera or Symbicort Inhalers
Flovent Diskus/HFA Inhaler	Removed from formulary due to availability of more cost-effective alternatives	Qvar or Asmanex inhalers
Premarin Vaginal Cream	Removed from formulary due to availability of more cost-effective alternatives	Estrace Vaginal Cream
Vesicare tablets	Removed from formulary due to availability of more cost-effective alternatives	Oxybutynin, trospium, or tolterodine tablets/capsules
Estradiol tablets and patches	PA added for high risk medication	Estrace Vaginal Cream

In early November 2016, UCare will send letters to members and providers impacted by these changes to facilitate proactive review and treatment adjustments, if appropriate, before the next calendar year. The goal of our 2017 changes is to enhance the safe use of medications by our members and offer the most clinically and cost-effective therapy to our members.

Questions?

If you have further questions, please call UCare's Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 toll free.