

## Pharmacy Formulary Changes for 2018 - *Effective January 1, 2018*

This bulletin provides a summary of the 2018 UCare pharmacy formulary changes. Click the links below to view the documents related to 2018 UCare formularies:

- [UCare for Seniors](#)
- [EssentiaCare](#)
- [UCare Minnesota Senior Health Options \(MSHO\) and UCare Connect + Medicare](#)
- [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) - UCare Connect, MinnesotaCare, PMAP, Minnesota Senior Care Plus](#)
- [UCare Choices and Fairview UCare Choices](#)

### Diabetic testing supplies for Medicare and Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)

- Bayer products (Contour and Breeze meters and test strips) are being removed from all Medicare and MHCP formularies.
- OneTouch Verio and OneTouch Ultra meters and test strips will be the only covered testing products.
- Members and their providers received a letter the week of October 30th informing them of the formulary change, along with a manufacturer voucher that explains how to receive a new meter at no cost either directly from the manufacturer or through their pharmacy.
- Additional vouchers are available to members by calling the UCare Customer Services phone number on the back of their UCare insurance card.
- Members will need a new prescription for the OneTouch Verio and OneTouch Ultra products from their provider.

### New treatments for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

- UCare will cover Mavyret and Vosevi on formulary starting Jan. 1, 2018, for MHCP and Feb. 1, 2018, for Medicare, *UCare Choices* and *Fairview UCare Choices*.
- Prior authorization will be required for Mavyret and Vosevi.
- Mavyret
  - Mavyret is indicated for treatment of adult patients with chronic HCV genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 infection without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis.
  - Mavyret is also indicated for retreatment in certain clinical situations.
  - Many treatment-naïve patients will be eligible for 8 weeks of treatment with Mavyret vs. 12 weeks or longer courses of therapy with other available products.
- Vosevi
  - Vosevi is indicated for retreatment of adult patients with chronic HCV without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis who have genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 infection who have failed certain HCV regimens.

### High-risk medications (HRM) in the elderly

- Use of HRM in the elderly continues to be a focus for Medicare.
- Many HRM drugs will be moved up to the non-preferred drug tier on UCare Medicare formularies.
- Members will pay the non-preferred drug tier cost share or the cost of the drug, whichever is less.

### High-impact changes for Medicare for 2018

Medications on 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 2018 formulary changes are related to the removal or uptiering of drugs with an equally effective cheaper alternative. There were minimal removals for the 2018 formulary.

The following list summarizes certain high-impact changes for 2018 but is not inclusive of all changes:

| Drug Category   | Formulary Change  | 2018 Preferred Formulary Drugs                       |
|---|---|--|
| Hepatitis C   | Addition of Mavyret and Vosevi.<br>Remove Daklinza, Olysio, Sovaldi, Technivie. | Mavyret, Vosevi, Epclusa, Harvoni, Zepatier          |
| Combination inhalers  | Addition of Breo Ellipta.   | Advair Diskus, Dulera, Symbicort, Breo Ellipta       |
| Inhaled LABA/LAMA products  | Addition of Stiolto.  | Bevespi, Stiolto                                     |
| Long-acting insulin   | Uptier Levemir to non-preferred drug tier.                                      | Lantus, Toujeo                                       |
| HRM (e.g., zolpidem, estradiol, amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, etc.) | Uptier HRMs to non-preferred drug tier.   | N/A  |
| Test strips and meters  | Remove Bayer products (Contour and Breeze).                                     | OneTouch Verio, OneTouch Ultra                       |
| Oral antidiabetic agents  | Remove metformin ER 1000mg tablet.  | metformin ER 500mg tablet, metformin ER 750mg tablet |

In late October 2017, UCare sent letters to members and providers impacted by formulary removals and uptiered drugs to facilitate proactive review and treatment adjustments, if appropriate, prior to the next calendar year. The goal of our 2018 changes is to enhance the safe use of medications and offer the most clinically and cost effective therapy for 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.