

# Provider Bulletin



## News and Information

November 18, 2020

### Medical Benefit Drug Prior Authorization for 2021 and Biosimilar Step Therapy Information

#### 2021 Medical Benefit Drug Prior Authorization

Continuing for 2021, Care Continuum will perform UCare's Medical Benefit Drug Prior Authorization reviews for all lines of business.

- Prior authorization requests can be initiated at Care Continuum via the following methods:
  - Online(ePA) – via the Express Path Portal at the following link <https://www.express-path.com/>
  - Fax – By faxing [an authorization form](#) to Care Continuum at 1-877-266-1871
  - Phone – by calling 1-800-818-6747
- The grid of medical drugs requiring prior authorization, their corresponding criteria and prior authorization form are posted on our provider website at [ucare.org/providers](https://ucare.org/providers).

Post-service or retrospective pharmacy authorization requests, along with non-par requests should be sent:

- By [fax](#) to UCare, Attn: Clinical Services at 612-884-2499 or 1-866-610-7215
- By mail to UCare, Attn: Clinical Services at P.O. Box 52, Minneapolis, MN 55440-0052

To request an adjustment on an existing prior authorization:

- Providers should contact UCare Clinical Services – for 2019 prior authorization changes.
- Providers should contact Care Continuum – for 2020 and 2021 prior authorization changes.
- The authorization must be active.
- End date extensions can be completed due to scheduling issues or health reasons (e.g., chemo delayed due to blood count) that may prevent the administration of the previously approved drug.
- Required information for these requests:
  - Reason for extension.
  - Revised end date.
- Adjustments are not approved for the following reasons. A new review/renewal is required.
  - Additional drug is requested.
  - The patient is due for a renewal.

#### Summary of Medical Drug Prior Authorization Changes for 2021

Below is a summary of the 2021 medical drug prior authorization requirements for all UCare lines of business.

- 150 drugs require authorization in 2021
  - Drugs requiring authorization by therapeutic category:
    - Biosimilar Step: 15 drugs
    - Enzyme Replacement: 11 drugs
    - Hematology: 5 drugs
    - Hereditary Angioedema: 7 drugs

- Immunologicals: 5 drugs
- Infertility: 5 drugs
- Inflammatory Conditions: 11 drugs
- Multiple Sclerosis: 3 drugs
- Oncology: 58 drugs
- Rare/Miscellaneous Conditions: 30 drugs
- Generally, criteria confirm appropriate diagnosis, appropriate prescriber and appropriate dose.
  - Some criteria may require use of a clinically appropriate trial of a previous medication.

## Biosimilar Step Therapy for Medical Drugs in 2021

A number of biosimilars are available on the marketplace for medical drugs. UCare will require a trial of a preferred biosimilar first, prior to use of the reference list product or non-preferred biosimilar.

### Biosimilar Step Therapy Program Details

Drug Name	Preferred Products	Non-preferred Products
Pegfilgrastim	Udenyca, Ziextenzo	Neulasta, Fulphila, Nyvepria
Infliximab	Avsola, Inflectra	Remicade, Renflexis
Rituximab	Truxima, Ruxience	Rituxan
Trastuzumab	Kanjinti, Trazimera	Herceptin
Filgrastim	Zarxio	Neupogen, Granix, Nivestym
Epoetin	Retacrit	Procrit, Epogen
Bevacizumab	Mvasi, Zirabev	Avastin

- Step therapy requirement would be for members new to therapy only.
  - 365-day lookback for Medicare and 180 day lookback for Medicaid and Health Exchange.
  - Grandfathering members who we have history using the reference list product within the lookback period timeframes.

## Questions

If you have further questions, please call UCare’s Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 (toll free) or visit [ucare.org/providers](http://ucare.org/providers).