

Prescription Drug Program

A total prescription for health

Prescription drugs are an integral part of high-quality health care. The prescription benefits your employer is offering give you an affordable and convenient way to make the best decisions when it comes to your prescriptions.

Your prescription benefits

As a CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield or CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (CareFirst) member, you'll have access to:

- A nationwide network of 69,000 participating pharmacies
- Access to thousands of covered prescription drugs
- Mail Service Pharmacy, a convenient and fast option to refill your prescriptions through home delivery
- Coordinated medical and pharmacy programs to help improve your overall health and reduce costs

Keeping you informed

Together with our pharmacy benefit manager, CVS Caremark[®],* we keep you informed about your prescription drug coverage and provide you with periodic updates about your plan through targeted mailings and phone calls. Take the call and/or review your mailed notices to learn about lower-cost drug alternatives, possible safety concerns, drug tier changes and more.

Online tools and resources

To get the most from your prescription drug plan, you need to stay informed. Our easy-to-use, interactive tools and resources are available 24/7. Visit carefirst.com/rx to see if a drug is covered, find a pharmacy, learn how drugs interact with each other and get more information about medications. You can access even more tools and resources once you're a member through *My Account* (carefirst.com/myaccount) by selecting *Drug and Pharmacy Resources* under *Coverage*.



* CVS Caremark is an independent company that provides pharmacy benefit management services to CareFirst members.

Understanding your formulary

A formulary is a list of covered prescription drugs. Our drug list is reviewed and approved by an independent national committee comprised of physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals who make sure the drugs on the formulary are safe and clinically effective. The prescription drugs found on the CareFirst Formulary (drug list) are divided into tiers. These tiers include zero-dollar cost share, generics, preferred brand, non-preferred brand, preferred brand specialty, and non-preferred brand specialty drugs. Your cost share is determined by the tier the drug falls into.

Drug tier	Description
Tier 0: \$0 Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Preventive drugs (e.g. statins, aspirin, folic acid, fluoride, iron supplements, smoking cessation products and FDA-approved contraceptives for women) are available at a zero-dollar cost share if prescribed under certain medical criteria by your doctor.■ Oral chemotherapy drugs and diabetic supplies (e.g. insulin syringes, pen needles, lancets, test strips, and alcohol swabs) are also available at a zero-dollar cost share.
Tier 1: Generic Drugs \$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Generic drugs are the same as brand-name drugs in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use.■ Generic drugs generally cost less than brand-name drugs.
Tier 2: Preferred Brand Drugs \$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Preferred brand drugs are brand-name drugs that may not be available in generic form, but are chosen for their cost effectiveness compared to alternatives. Your cost-share will be more than generics but less than non-preferred brand drugs. If a generic drug becomes available, the preferred brand drug may be moved to the non-preferred brand category.
Tier 3: Non-Preferred Brand Drugs \$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Non-preferred brand drugs often have a generic or preferred brand drug option where your cost share will be lower.
Tier 4: Preferred Specialty Drugs \$\$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Preferred specialty drugs are medications that may be used to treat complex and/or rare health conditions. These drugs may have a lower cost-share than non-preferred specialty drugs.
Tier 5: Non-Preferred Specialty Drugs \$\$\$\$\$	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Non-preferred specialty drugs often have a specialty drug option where your cost-share will be lower.

Note: If the cost of your drug is less than your copay or coinsurance, you only pay the cost of the drug. Once you meet your deductible (if applicable to your plan), you may pay a different copay or coinsurance for drugs depending on the drug tier. Some drugs may not be covered based on your plan. There is an exception process if you need an excluded drug to be covered for medical necessity reasons. Check your benefit summary or enrollment materials for specific plan information. Once you are a member, you can view specific cost-share information in *My Account*.

Preferred Drug List

CareFirst's Preferred Drug List includes generic and preferred brand drugs selected for their quality, effectiveness and safety by the CVS Caremark national Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) committee. By using the Preferred Drug List, you can work with your doctor or pharmacist to make safe and cost-effective decisions to better manage your health care and out-of-pocket costs.

Non-preferred drugs aren't included on the Preferred Drug List; they are still covered but at the highest cost share. Also, some drugs on the Preferred Drug List may not be covered based on your plan. To see your formulary and Preferred Drug List, go to carefirst.com/rx.

Prescription guidelines

Some medications are only intended to be used in limited quantities; others require that your doctor obtain prior authorization through CareFirst before they can be filled. These drug guidelines are indicated on the formulary found at [carefirst.com/rx](https://www.carefirst.com/rx).

- **Quantity limits** are placed on selected drugs for safety, quality or utilization reasons. Limits may be placed on the amount of the drug covered per prescription or for a defined period of time. If your doctor decides that a different quantity of medication is right for you, your doctor can request prior authorization for coverage.
- **Prior authorization** is required before you fill prescriptions for certain drugs. Your doctor must obtain prior authorization before they can be filled. Without prior authorization approval, your drugs may not be covered.
- **Step therapy** ensures you receive a lower-cost drug option as the first step in treating certain health conditions. When similar drugs are available, step therapy guides your doctor to prescribe the lower-cost option first. You may then move up the cost levels until you find the drug that works best for you. Higher step drugs may require prior authorization by your doctor before they can be covered.

Two ways to fill

Retail pharmacies

With access to 69,000 pharmacies across the country, you can visit [carefirst.com/rx](https://www.carefirst.com/rx) and use our *Find a Pharmacy* tool to locate a convenient participating pharmacy. Be sure to take your prescription and member ID card with you when filling prescriptions.

Mail Service Pharmacy

Mail order is a convenient way to fill your prescriptions, especially for refilling drugs taken frequently. You can register three ways—online through *My Account*, by phone or by mail. Once you register you'll be able to:

- Refill prescriptions online, by phone or by email
- Choose your delivery location
- Consult with pharmacists by phone 24/7
- Schedule automatic refills
- Receive email notification of order status
- Choose from multiple payment options

Ways to save

Here are some ways to help you save on your prescription drug costs.

- **Use generic drugs**—generic drugs can cost up to 80% less than their brand-name counterparts. Made with the same active ingredients as their brand-name counterparts, generics are also equivalent in dosage, safety, strength, quality, performance and intended use.
- **Use drugs on the Preferred Drug List**—the Preferred Drug List identifies generic and preferred brand drugs that may save you money.
- **Use the Drug Pricing Tool**—this tool allows you to compare the cost of a drug purchased at a pharmacy versus purchasing the same drug through mail order, as well as view generic drugs available at a lower cost.
- **Use mail order**—by using our Mail Service Pharmacy you get the added convenience of having your prescriptions delivered right to your home. Plus, if you pay a coinsurance for your maintenance drugs, the overall cost of the drug may be less expensive through mail order, reducing your out-of-pocket costs.

Care management programs

We offer care management programs and tools designed to improve your health while lowering your overall health care costs.

Specialty Pharmacy Coordination Program

This program addresses the unique clinical needs of members taking high-cost specialty drugs for certain complex health conditions like multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and hemophilia. Members receive enhanced one-on-one support with a registered nurse and dedicated clinical team who will coordinate care with your doctor.

The program provides:

- 24-hour pharmacist assistance
- Injection training coordination
- Educational materials for your specific condition
- A one-month supply of your specialty drug interaction monitoring and review
- Drugs mailed to your home or office, or available for pick up at any CVS retail pharmacy

Comprehensive Medication Review

When you are taking multiple drugs to treat a medical condition, it can be overwhelming. The Comprehensive Medication Review program can connect you with a CVS Caremark pharmacist who will review your drugs and talk to your doctor about dosages, duration and any other pertinent issues. The pharmacist will work with your doctor to evaluate opportunities to:

- Identify possible drug interactions
- Improve drug adherence
- Reduce gaps in care
- Eliminate duplications in drug therapy

The program works with your doctor to ensure that you are not only taking the best drugs to manage your conditions, but you are also able to take your drugs as prescribed.

Medication Therapy Management Program

Taking medications as prescribed not only helps improve your health but can also reduce your health care costs. CareFirst's Medication Therapy Management program is designed to help you get the best results from your drug therapy.

We review pharmacy claims for opportunities to:

- Save you money
- Support compliance with medications
- Improve your care
- Ensure safe use of high-risk medications

When opportunities are identified, "Drug Advisories" will be communicated to either you and/or your doctor regarding your drug therapy. Through our Pharmacy Advisor program, you may also have the opportunity to speak one-to-one with a pharmacist, who can answer questions and help you manage your prescription drugs.

Should you have any questions about your prescription benefits, please contact CareFirst Pharmacy Services at 800-241-3371.