Broker News

For brokers and producers only

CareFirst

Date: August 4, 2022

Markets: All (except FEP, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement members)

Medications Added to Prior Authorization and Site of Care Management Lists—Effective September 1, 2022

Effective September 1, 2022, the medications below will be added to the list of drugs subject to prior authorization and site of care management to better manage rising specialty drug costs. These medications are covered under the medical benefit and are administered in the outpatient hospital, home or office settings.

Any impacted members were notified via letter by August 1, 2022. Any account-level impact was distributed to CareFirst Account Management on August 1, 2022, to support account notification of member impact. Providers were notified in the June 29 Provider News, and there will also be a reminder in this month's issue of BlueLink.

The Specialty Drug List includes all medications covered under the medical benefit subject to prior authorization and/or site of care management. This list is updated monthly.

Why the change?

CareFirst is continually working with healthcare delivery partners to optimize utilization management strategies to increase efficiencies and control costs while ensuring members receive affordable, quality care. Prior authorization helps balance access with appropriate and safe utilization of these high-cost medications.

Through prior authorization, site of care criteria is applied for selected medications as an opportunity to help reduce overall healthcare costs and members' out-of-pocket costs without compromising quality of care. The outpatient hospital setting is generally recognized as one of the most expensive options for specialty infusions, with costs up to three times higher compared to non-hospital settings. Certain infused therapies can be safely and effectively administered in alternate, less costly settings, such as the home or a provider's office.

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Prior authorization additions

Failure to obtain prior authorization for these medications may result in the denial of the claim payment.

Drug Name	Drug Class
Tezspire	Asthma
Enjaymo	Blood disorders
Leqvio	Lipid disorders
Vyvgart	Myasthenia gravis
Releuko	Neutropenia
Susvimo **Xipere** **Vabysmo**	Ocular disorders
Besremi **Fyarro** **Kimmtrak** **Opdualag** **Pluvicto**	Oncology

Site of care management additions

Coverage for these medications in an outpatient hospital setting is approved only if medical necessity criteria are met at the time of prior authorization. If medical necessity is not met, members will have the opportunity to receive their infusion at a more cost-effective and convenient alternate site, including their home, an ambulatory infusion center or a physician's office.

Drug Name	Drug Class
Tezspire	Asthma
Enjaymo	Blood disorders

If you have any questions, please contact your CareFirst Account Consultant.

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