

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION DRUGS

What are prior authorization drugs?

They are certain drugs that require a letter of medical necessity which includes the diagnosis from your physician in order for the prescription to be covered. If your diagnosis meets approved criteria for that medication and the diagnosis is within the scope of coverage of the plan, a prior authorization will be set up so your prescription can be filled under the plan.

How does my Physician obtain a prior authorization?

Your physician can fax this information to Express Scripts' Prior Authorization Department at (866) 374-5547 or the physician can call it in to (866) 374-5549. When faxed, the request will be reviewed and the physician will receive a fax back informing him/her if it has been approved or denied. The turnaround time for a request is 48 hours. All urgent requests should be called in by your physician.

What if I am currently taking one of these medications?

Effective April 1, 2004, if you are currently taking one of these medications, you will still need your physician to provide Express Scripts with a letter of medical necessity prior to filling your prescription. These prescriptions will not be covered without an approved authorization.

FERTILITY MEDICATION MAXIMUM

Are Injectable Fertility medications still covered under my PICA program?

Effective April 1, 2004, injectable medications used to treat infertility will be limited to a 90-day lifetime therapy for those PICA members whose health plan covers the treatment that requires these medications. Please call Express Scripts' Customer Service at (800) 467-2006 with coverage questions.

What if I have already filled my Injectable Fertility Prescription?

The lifetime maximum will be applied to your PICA drug history. If you have filled a 30 day supply since the PICA program started in July of 2001 then you will have 60 days of treatment remaining. If you have filled 90 days of treatment you will no longer be eligible for this benefit.

STEP THERAPY

What is the Step Therapy Program?

Step Therapy is a program that encourages the use of safe and effective first-line medications. Medications used to treat the following conditions will fall under the Step Therapy program:

- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Asthma
- Depression

First-line drugs are well established and known to be safe and effective. They are the preferred therapy for most people. If first-line therapy does not work or causes problems, it's time to try second-line therapy.

How does the program work?

- When a prescription for a second-line drug is processed at your pharmacy, the computer system reviews your current prescription history.
- If the system finds a first-line drug that was previously used, the second-line medication will be dispensed.
- If the system does not find that a first-line drug was previously used, the second-line prescription is not covered. The pharmacist can suggest covered first-line alternatives to your physician.

How are the first-line and second-line medications chosen?

First-line and second-line drugs are selected by clinical committees after careful review of medical literature, manufacturer product information, and consultation with medical professionals. These steps are taken to make sure that the protocols reflect the most current and appropriate drug therapy recommendations.

What if I am currently taking a second-line medication?

If you are currently taking a second-line drug, you can continue filling the prescription. The Step Therapy program will be in place effective **April 1, 2004** for new users for these selected drug groups.

SPECIALTY CARE PHARMACY - CURASCRIPT

What is the Specialty Care Pharmacy?

Curascript, the specialty care pharmacy, is a mail order facility that specializes in certain injectable medications. Please refer to the enclosed medication list for examples.

Why are these medications being filled by a different mail order facility?

We have realized the importance and the extra care that these medications require. The specialty care pharmacy will fill these medications but also provide other services to help you along the process. This program not only supplies the prescribed medication and related supplies such as needles and syringes, but also provides clinical support to you to help improve compliance as well as provide convenient delivery.

What if I am currently taking one of these medications?

If you are currently utilizing one of these medications, you will receive a separate communication with the appropriate telephone numbers. Effective April 1, 2004, you will be able to fill your prescription one additional time at retail then it **MUST** be sent to the specialty pharmacy.

How do I find out more information about the Specialty Care Pharmacy?

To find out more information you can call Express Scripts Customer Service at (800) 467-2006. You may also call Curascript's customer service number at (866) 848-9876.

PICA Q & A

New York City Office of Labor Relations
Employee Benefits Program/
Municipal Labor Committee

PICA PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

Psychotropic
Injectable
Chemotherapy
Asthma

**Important Changes
Effective
April 1, 2004**

THE PICA PROGRAM:

What is the PICA Program?

PICA is a prescription drug benefit program that has been provided to you and your eligible dependents since July of 2001. It is made available through the joint efforts of the City of New York Office of Labor Relations and the Municipal Labor Committee.

Who is covered?

All employees, non-Medicare retirees, and their dependents enrolled in a health plan offered by the City's Health Benefits Program receive coverage for certain categories of prescription drugs.

What drugs are covered?

PICA covers medications in four specific drug categories—Psychotropic, Injectable, Chemotherapy & Asthma

- PSYCHOTROPIC
 1. Antidepressants
 2. Antipsychotics
- INJECTABLE
 1. Most injectable medications not requiring administration by a health care professional
- CHEMOTHERAPY
 1. Medications used to treat cancer
 2. Medications used to treat the side effects of chemotherapy
- ASTHMA
 1. Inhalers
 2. Most medications used to treat asthma

What company is administering PICA?

NPA, a division of Express Scripts, is administering the benefits under the PICA program.

COPAYMENTS

What are the copayments for PICA drugs?

Up to a 30 day supply at a Retail Pharmacy:

- \$5 Generic
- \$15 Preferred Brand (Formulary)
- \$35 Non-Preferred Brand (Non-Formulary)*

Up to a 90 day supply at the Mail Order Pharmacy:

- \$10 Generic
- \$30 Preferred Brand (Formulary)
- \$70 Non-Preferred Brand (Non-Formulary)*

*If you choose a non-preferred brand drug that has a generic equivalent you will pay the difference in cost between the non-preferred brand drug and the generic drug **PLUS** the non-preferred brand copayment.

What is a Preferred Medication?

A preferred medication is identified after a thorough review of medications for safety, effectiveness, and value. A copy of the Preferred Medication List for your plan is enclosed. Please bring this list to your doctor to discuss which medications are right for you.

How can I find out if my medication is Preferred or Non-preferred?

A copy of the Preferred Drug List is included with this packet. You may also call Express Scripts' Customer Service Department at (800) 467-2006 or visit www.express-scripts.com.

MANDATORY MAIL ORDER

What mail order benefits are available?

Express Scripts offers a mail order program where you can order up to a 90-day supply of PICA drugs which will be conveniently mailed directly to you. You will receive up to a 3 month supply of medication for only 2 retail copayments, saving you money.

What prescriptions should be sent to the Mail Order?

Effective **April 1, 2004**, all PICA drugs that are classified as maintenance medications **MUST** be filled through the mail order after you have had two fills at retail. A maintenance drug is a medication that you will be utilizing on a regular basis over an extended period of time.

What if I am currently taking a Maintenance PICA drug?

If you are currently taking a maintenance PICA drug and have filled it twice at the retail pharmacy, you **MUST** send it to mail order. Effective April 1, 2004, this drug will not be covered at the retail pharmacy.

How do I get my Maintenance PICA drug filled at Mail Order?

You will need to get a new prescription from your doctor and send it in the enclosed mail order envelope. Include a check or appropriate credit card information for your applicable mail order copayment with your prescription. If you need additional information contact Express Scripts Mail Order Customer Service Department at (800) 233-7139.

How do I re-fill my medication by Mail Order?

By Phone:

Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System
IVR enables you to renew prescriptions over the telephone at any time of the day or night. Simply call (800) 233-7139 and follow the instructions that are given to you over the phone.

Over the Internet:

Log onto Express Scripts' website at www.express-scripts.com and register as a member. Once you have registered you can order refills through the web and verify your copay.

GENERICS PREFERRED PROGRAM

What is the Generics Preferred Program?

When you fill a prescription, the pharmacy will see if a generic equivalent is available.

- If a generic is available and you choose it, you pay the standard copayment for a generic drug. This will be less than for a brand name drug.
- If you choose a non-preferred brand name medication, you will pay the non-preferred brand name copayment, **PLUS** the difference in cost between the generic drug and the non-preferred brand name drug.

Are generics and brand name drugs the same?

A generic drug contains the same active ingredients in the same dosage forms and strengths as the brand name drug.

Why do generics cost less than brand name drugs?

Drug manufacturers spend large sums of money on the research, development, marketing and advertising of brand-name drugs. Manufacturers of generics have lower costs.

Why should you choose generics?

You get the same quality and effectiveness as a brand-name drug. By choosing a generic medication, you can save on your copayment.

How do you know generics are safe?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves both brand-name and generic drugs before they are marketed in the U.S. The FDA requires that generic drugs contain the same active ingredients as brand-name drugs and be used in the body in the same way. This ensures that generics are as safe and effective as brand-name drugs.