

## Clinical Pharmacy Program Guidelines for Non-preferred Drugs

Program	Prior Authorization
Medication	Non-preferred Drugs
Issue Date	6/2010
Pharmacy and Therapeutics Approval Date	3/2017
Effective Date	5/1/2017

### 1. Background:

**Purpose:** Many medically necessary drugs have very specific indications and or less costly alternatives that have documented efficacy. The formularies/PDLs of the health plans administered by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan are intended to provide the highest quality care while containing cost. The drug therapies to which this policy applies are not part of these formularies/PDLs and will be reimbursed through a prior authorization procedure.

**Policy:** UnitedHealthcare Community Plan requires prior authorization for the drug therapies that are assigned prior authorization status under this policy in order to promote high quality cost effective care, and to monitor utilization. This procedure enhances formulary/PDL compliance and appropriate prescribing. Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon a clinical review protocol established by the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

**Rationale:** This policy is intended to ensure that medications subject to prior authorization, including those not listed on the Plan Formulary/PDL, are utilized in accordance with FDA indications and uses found in the compendia of current literature.\* This policy also aims to insure that medications are approved within manufacturer’s dosing guidelines and to foster cost-effective, first-line use of available formulary/PDL medications.

### 2. Coverage Criteria:

<p><b>A. <u>Authorization Criteria</u></b></p> <p>1. A requested for a non-preferred medication will be approved based on <b><u>one</u></b> of the following criteria</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. All of the following:</p>
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1. One of the following:

(a) Both of the following:

- i. Beneficiary must demonstrate failure or intolerance to a majority (not more than three (3)) of the preferred formulary/PDL alternatives for the given diagnosis - **Prior trials of formulary/PDL alternatives must sufficiently demonstrate that the formulary/PDL alternatives are either ineffective or inappropriate at the time of the request.**

**-AND-**

- ii. If the request is for a multi-source brand medication, one of the following:

- a. The multi-source brand is being requested because of an adverse reaction, allergy or sensitivity to a generic equivalent
- b. The multi-source brand is being requested due to a therapeutic failure with the generic equivalent
- c. The multi-source brand is being requested because transition to a generic equivalent could result in destabilization of the patient
- d. Special clinical circumstances exist that preclude the use of a generic version of the multi-source brand medication for the patient

**-OR-**

- (b) There are no preferred formulary alternatives for the requested drug.

**-AND-**

2. One of the following:

- (a) The requested drug must be used for an FDA-approved indication

**-OR-**

- (b) The use of this drug is supported by information from the appropriate compendia of current literature.\*

**-AND-**

4. The drug is being prescribed for a medically accepted indication that is recognized as a covered benefit by the applicable health plans' program.

**-OR-**

b. The requested medication is a behavioral health medication and one of the following:

1. The patient has been receiving treatment with the requested non-preferred behavioral health medication and is new to the plan (enrollment effective date within the past 90 days)

**-OR-**

2. The patient is currently receiving treatment with the requested non-preferred behavioral health medication in the hospital and must continue upon discharge

**Authorization will be issued for 12 months.**

\*Compendia of current literature: • American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information • National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium • Thomson Micromedex DrugDex • Clinical Pharmacology

Program	Program type – Non-preferred Drugs
<b>Change Control</b>	
Date	Change
June 2010	Criteria were taken from a previously approved Unison policy, RX06 Non PDL. Policy was reformatted. Added non-preferred behavioral health medication criteria.
March 2011	Annual Review
March 2012	Annual Review
March 2013	Annual Review
December 2015	Annual Review
October 2016	Added step to support approval of non-preferred medications with no preferred alternatives.

February 2017	Separated behavioral health into its own section. Updated policy template. Changed “Community & State” to “Community Plan” in background.
March 2017	Added multisource brand language. Removed the statement about the drug being used within manufacturer’s published dosing guidelines since this is part of the quantity limit review, not the non-preferred review.