

**Date:** July 26, 2017

**To:** Contractor Medical Directors  
Contractor Pharmacy Directors  
Contractor Compliance Officers

**From:** Suzi Berman, RPh

**Subject:** AHCCCS Drug List(s) Preferred Drugs

This memo is to provide notice on the preferred drugs that were approved at the July 10, 2017 AHCCCS Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee. The drug classes that were reviewed include:

- Oral Atypical (Second Generation) Antipsychotics
- Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics
- Stimulants and Related Agents
- Pancreatic Enzymes
- Anticoagulants

There were no changes to the preferred agents for the following classes:

- Oral Atypical (Second Generation) Antipsychotics
- Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics
- Pancreatic Enzymes

Please note that the oral and injectable antipsychotic preferred agents shall be made available for coverage by all AHCCCS Contractors administering a behavioral health benefit.

The following products were added, to both the AHCCCS Drug List and the AHCCCS Behavioral Health Drug List, as preferred agents to the Stimulant and Related Agents class:

- Aptensio XR
- Methylphenidate CD (in place of Metadate CD, which is no longer manufactured).
- The prior authorization parameter, for children less than 6 years of age, applies to these products.

The following changes were made to the Anticoagulant Class on the AHCCCS Drug List:

- Xarelto Dose Pack and Enoxaparin Vials & Syringes were added as preferred agents.
- Lovenox Vials and Syringes will be non-preferred as of October 1<sup>st</sup>

The AHCCCS P&T Committee also reviewed the Hypoglycemics, Insulin and Related Agents in executive session. The final review of this class was delayed from the previous AHCCCS P&T meeting to allow for a review of updated data. The recommendation was to continue with current preferred products listed on the AHCCCS Drug List and to add:

- Novolog Vials, Cartridges & Pens, and
- Novolog Mixed Vials & Pens

The P&T Committee also approved medications that are used to treat depression, anxiety and ADHD to be the same on both the AHCCCS Drug List and the AHCCCS Behavioral Health Drug List. A separate excel document will be distributed with these changes.

The new biosimilars for Remicade, *Inflectra and Renflexis*, were presented at the meeting. Per the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, policy 310-V section B. 4. , AHCCCS Contractors shall not transition to a biosimilar drug until AHCCCS has determined that the biosimilar drug is overall more cost-effective to the state than the continued use of the brand name drug. AHCCCS has made the determination that Contractors must continue to pay for Remicade as the preferred agent.

Contractors shall approve preferred drugs for medication classes listed on the AHCCCS Drug List before considering approval/authorization of non-preferred drugs. However, Contractors shall approve non-preferred drugs when:

- 1) The member has previously completed step therapy using the preferred drug(s) or
- 2) The member's prescribing clinician supports the medical necessity of the non-preferred drug over the preferred drug for the particular member.

Contractors shall facilitate member transitions to the preferred drugs for the preferred agents with the exception of those approved for grandfathering. Contractors are not required to provide a Notice of Action when the prescribing clinician is in agreement with the change to the preferred drug. A prior authorization may be submitted for the non-preferred drug when the prescribing clinician is not in agreement with the transition to the preferred drug. Contractors shall issue a Notice of Action in accordance with [AHCCCS Contractor Operations Manual \(ACOM\) Chapter 414 – Notices of Action for Service Authorizations](#) when a prior authorization is denied.

A document is available on the AHCCCS website under Pharmacy/Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, and it contains the preferred and non-preferred drugs by the Therapeutic Class, National Drug Code, generic product information, and the drug label name. Drugs noted as "ON" have preferred status and those listed as "NPD" are non-preferred. New drug market entries will be considered non-preferred.

Contractors shall communicate the AHCCCS Drug List(s) preferred drugs to their pharmacy benefit managers and require point-of-sale edits that communicate the preferred drug of a therapeutic class to the pharmacy when a claim is submitted for a drug other than the preferred drug.

Contractors are required to list these medications on their drug list exactly as they are listed on the AHCCCS Drug List(s).

Contractors shall not add other drugs to their drug list to therapeutic classes, which contain preferred drugs on the AHCCCS DRUG LIST. All Contractor drug lists, including website listings, must be updated by October 1, 2017 to reflect P&T preferred drug and other drug changes.

As a reminder, the contract language between AHCCCS and its Contractors prohibits

duplicate discounts and is stated as follows:

*“Pharmaceutical Rebates: The Contractor, including the Contractor’s Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), is prohibited from negotiating any rebates with drug manufacturers for preferred or other pharmaceutical products when AHCCCS has a supplemental rebate contract for the product(s). A listing of products covered under supplemental rebate agreements will be available on the AHCCCS website under the Pharmacy Information section.*

*If the Contractor or its PBM has an existing rebate agreement with a manufacturer, all outpatient drug claims, including provider-administered drugs for which AHCCCS is obtaining supplemental rebates, must be exempt from such rebate agreements.”*

The drug classes to be reviewed at that October 12, 2017 AHCCCS P&T Meeting are:

- Analgesics, Narcotics Long-Acting
- Self-Injected Epinephrines
- Growth Hormones
- Cytokines and CAM Antagonists
- Inhaled Antibiotics
- Progestational Agents
- Hepatitis C Agents

A listing of the drugs for each of the classes above can be found on the Provider Synergies website at [www.providersynergies.com](http://www.providersynergies.com) under Arizona.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions. I can be reached at [Suzanne.Berman@azahcccs.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Berman@azahcccs.gov) or telephonically at (602) 417-4726.