



DENVER HEALTH
MEDICAL PLAN INC.™

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Effective Date: 07/01/2021

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4. Belsomra (suvorexant)
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Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Armour Thyroid (porcine thyroid)

Generic name: porcine thyroid
Brand name: Armour Thyroid
Medication class: Thyroid

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of levothyroxine tablets in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Banzel (rufinamide)

Generic name: rufinamide
Brand name: Banzel
Medication class: Anticonvulsant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Lamotrigine
 - Topiramate

Step 2:

- Previous failure of clobazam in the past 365 days.

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Baqsimi (glucagon nasal powder)

Generic name: glucagon nasal powder
Brand name: Baqsimi
Medication class: Antihypoglycemic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Glucagon Emergency Kit or Glucagen Hypokit in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Belsomra (suvorexant)

Generic name: suvorexant
Brand name: Belsomra
Medication class: Hypnotic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of two of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Eszopiclone
 - Silenor
 - Temazepam
 - Trazodone
 - Zolpidem

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2019
Revision: February 2020, October 2020

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Breo Ellipta (fluticasone/vilanterol)

Generic name: fluticasone/vilanterol
Brand name: Breo Ellipta
Medication class: Inhaled glucocorticoid/long-acting beta-agonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days

- Fluticasone/salmeterol (generic Advair Diskus) or Advair HFA
- Budesonide/formoterol (generic Symbicort)

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Brilinta (ticagrelor)

Generic name: ticagrelor
Brand name: Brilinta
Medication class: Antiplatelet

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of clopidogrel in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: May 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Bydureon (exenatide)

Generic name: exenatide
Brand name: Bydureon
Medication class: GLP-1 receptor agonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Trulicity in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: May 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Bystolic (nebivolol)

Generic name: nebivolol
Brand name: Bystolic
Medication class: Beta-blocker

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of two of the following formulary beta-blockers in the past 365 days:
 - Atenolol
 - Carvedilol
 - Labetalol
 - Metoprolol
 - Nadolol
 - Pindolol
 - Propranolol
 - Sotalol

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2021
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Cambia (diclofenac powder for oral solution)

Generic name: diclofenac powder for oral solution
Brand name: Cambia
Medication class: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of two of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Sumatriptan tablet, nasal spray or injection
 - Zolmitriptan tablet, nasal spray or orally disintegrating tablet
 - Eletriptan tablet
 - Rizatriptan tablet or orally disintegrating tablet

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: March 2021
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Cequa (cyclosporine)

Generic name: cyclosporine ophthalmic solution
Brand name: Cequa
Medication class: Calcineurin inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Restasis in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Colcrys (colchicine)

Generic name: colchicine
Brand name: Colcrys
Medication class: Antigout; antiinflammatory

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - A formulary NSAID
 - A formulary glucocorticoid
 - Allopurinol
 - Probenecid/colchicine

Additional considerations:

- Quantity Limit (QL) of 60 tablets per 30 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2016
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Combigan (brimonidine/timolol)

Generic name: brimonidine/timolol
Brand name: Combigan
Medication class: Glaucoma agent

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of brimonidine eye drops or timolol eye drops in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: May 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Combipatch (estradiol/norethindrone)

Generic name: estradiol/norethindrone transdermal patch
Brand name: Combipatch
Medication class: Hormone replacement therapy

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Estradiol/norethindrone oral tablets
 - Estradiol transdermal patches
 - Estradiol vaginal cream

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: May 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Contrave (naltrexone/bupropion)

Generic name: naltrexone/bupropion
Brand name: Contrave
Medication class: Anorexiant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of phentermine in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Corlanor (ivabradine)

Generic name: ivabradine
Brand name: Corlanor
Medication class: Cardiovascular agent

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of one formulary beta-blocker in the past 365 days:
 - Atenolol
 - Carvedilol
 - Labetalol
 - Metoprolol
 - Nadolol
 - Pindolol
 - Propranolol
 - Sotalol

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Dexilant (dexlansoprazole)

Generic name: dexlansoprazole
Brand name: Dexilant
Medication class: Proton pump inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of all of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Omeprazole
 - Pantoprazole
 - Esomeprazole

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Divigel (estradiol)

Generic name: estradiol
Brand name: Divigel
Medication class: Hormone replacement therapy

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Estradiol oral tablets
 - Estradiol transdermal patches

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: March 2021
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Dovonex (calcipotriene)

Generic name: calcipotriene
Brand name: Dovonex
Medication class: Antipsoriatic, Synthetic Vitamin D3

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of a formulary topical corticosteroid in the past 365 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: January 2016
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Dulera (mometasone/formoterol)

Generic name: mometasone/formoterol
Brand name: Dulera
Medication class: Inhaled glucocorticoid/long-acting beta-agonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days

- Fluticasone/salmeterol (generic Advair Diskus) or Advair HFA
- Budesonide/formoterol (generic Symbicort)

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Eliquis (apixaban)

Generic name: apixaban
Brand name: Eliquis
Medication class: Factor Xa inhibitor; direct oral anticoagulant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of Xarelto in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Enbrel (etanercept)

Generic name: etanercept
Brand name: Enbrel
Medication class: TNF inhibitor; immune suppressant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Asacol
 - Balsalazide
 - Dipentum
 - Methotrexate
 - Rowasa
 - Azathioprine
 - Cyclosporine
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Hydroxyurea
 - Leflunomide
 - Mercaptopurine
 - Soriatane
 - Sulfasalazine

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2013
Revision: April 2015, October 2016

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Envarsus XR (tacrolimus extended-release)

Generic name: tacrolimus extended-release
Brand name: Envarsus XR
Medication class: Calcineurin inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of tacrolimus capsules in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Estring (estradiol vaginal ring)

Generic name: estradiol vaginal ring
Brand name: Estring
Medication class: Hormone replacement therapy

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of estradiol vaginal cream in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: November 2019
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Estrogel (estradiol)

Generic name: estradiol
Brand name: Estrogel
Medication class: Hormone replacement therapy

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Estradiol oral tablets
 - Estradiol transdermal patches
 - Estradiol vaginal cream

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Eucria (crisaborole)

Generic name: crisaborole
Brand name: Eucria
Medication class: Antiinflammatory; PDE-4 inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one formulary topical corticosteroid in the past 365 days.

Step 2:

- Previous failure of tacrolimus ointment in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: November 2019
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Femring (estradiol vaginal ring)

Generic name: estradiol vaginal ring
Brand name: Femring
Medication class: Hormone replacement therapy

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of estradiol vaginal cream in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: May 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Fiasp (insulin aspart, recombinant)

Generic name: insulin aspart, recombinant

Brand name: Fiasp

Medication class: Insulin

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Insulin lispro
 - Novolog

Formulary Management Review:

Initial: April 2020

Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Humira (adalimumab)

Generic name: adalimumab
Brand name: Humira
Medication class: TNF inhibitor; monoclonal antibody; antirheumatic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Asacol
 - Balsalazide
 - Dipentum
 - Methotrexate
 - Rowasa
 - Azathioprine
 - Cyclosporine
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Hydroxyurea
 - Leflunomide
 - Mercaptopurine
 - Soriatane
 - Sulfasalazine

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2013
Revision: April 2015, October 2016

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Imitrex Injection vial and STATdose (sumatriptan succinate)

Generic name: sumatriptan
Brand name: Imitrex Injection vial and Imitrex STATdose
Medication class: 5HT-1 serotonin receptor agonist; antimigraine

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of sumatriptan oral tablets or sumatriptan nasal spray in the past 365 days

Additional considerations:

- Quantity limit (QL) of 6 doses (3 ml) per 30 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2013
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Invokana (canagliflozin)

Generic name: canagliflozin
Brand name: Invokana
Medication class: SGLT2 inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Farxiga in the past 365 days.

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Jardiance (empagliflozin)

Generic name: empagliflozin
Brand name: Jardiance
Medication class: SGLT2 inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Farxiga in the past 365 days.

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Levitra (vardenafil)

Generic name: vardenafil
Brand names: Levitra
Medication class: Phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE-5) inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of sildenafil citrate (generic for Viagra) in the past 365 days

Additional considerations:

- Quantity Limit (QL) of 6 tablets per 30 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: July 2018
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Linzess (linaclotide)

Generic name: linaclotide
Brand name: Linzess
Medication class: Guanylate cyclase-C agonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of lubiprostone in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: January 2021
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Lumigan (bimatoprost)

Generic name: bimatoprost
Brand name: Lumigan
Medication class: Anti-glaucoma

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Latanoprost
 - Travoprost

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: August 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Mydayis (dextroamphetamine/amphetamine)

Generic name: dextroamphetamine/amphetamine
Brand name: Mydayis
Medication class: ADHD agent; CNS stimulant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of a formulary generic amphetamine product (such as generic Adderall or generic Dexedrine) in the past 365 days

Step 2:

- Previous failure of formulary generic methylphenidate product (such as generic Ritalin, generic Concerta or generic Focalin) in the past 365 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Myrbetriq (mirabegron)

Generic name: mirabegron
Brand name: Myrbetriq
Medication class: Overactive bladder

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Oxybutynin (immediate release or extended release)
 - Tolterodine (immediate release or extended release)

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: January 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Nucynta ER (tapentadol extended-release)

Generic name: tapentadol extended-release
Brand name: Nucynta ER
Medication class: Analgesic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of tramadol extended-release tablets in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision: October 2020

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Nucynta (tapentadol)

Generic name: tapentadol
Brand name: Nucynta
Medication class: Analgesic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of tramadol immediate-release tablets in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Onfi (clobazam)

Generic name: clobazam
Brand name: Onfi
Medication class: Anticonvulsant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Lamotrigine
 - Topiramate

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: July 2019
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Ozempic (semaglutide)

Generic name: semaglutide
Brand name: Ozempic
Medication class: GLP-1 receptor agonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Trulicity in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Pristiq (desvenlafaxine succinate)

Generic name: desvenlafaxine succinate
Brand name: Pristiq
Medication class: Antidepressant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of venlafaxine in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: November 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Protopic (tacrolimus)

Generic name: tacrolimus
Brand names: Protopic
Medication class: Calcineurin inhibitor

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of one formulary topical corticosteroid in the past 365 days

Additional considerations:

- Quantity Limit (QL) of 100 grams per 30 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2017
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Qbrexza (glycopyrronium)

Generic name: glycopyrronium
Brand name: Qbrexza
Medication class: Topical anticholinergic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Drysol in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Risperdal Consta (risperidone long-acting injectable)

Generic name: risperidone long-acting injectable
Brand name: Risperdal Consta
Medication class: Atypical antipsychotic

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of risperidone tablets in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: July 2017
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Synthroid (levothyroxine)

Generic name: levothyroxine
Brand name: Synthroid
Medication class: Thyroid

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of levothyroxine tablets in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2021
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Tirosint (levothyroxine)

Generic name: levothyroxine
Brand name: Tirosint
Medication class: Thyroid

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of levothyroxine tablets in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Toujeo Solostar and Toujeo Max Solostar (insulin glargine)

Generic name: insulin glargine
Brand name: Toujeo Solostar and Toujeo Max Solostar
Medication class: Insulin

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Lantus and Levemir in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: February 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Trelegy Ellipta (fluticasone/vilanterol/umeclidinium)

Generic name: fluticasone/vilanterol/umeclidinium
Brand name: Trelegy Ellipta
Medication class: Inhaled glucocorticoid/long-acting beta-agonist/long-acting muscarinic antagonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Previous failure of two of the following in the past 365 days

- Fluticasone/salmeterol (generic Advair Diskus) or Advair HFA
- Budesonide/formoterol (generic Symbicort)
- Spiriva Handihaler or Respimat

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Tresiba and Tresiba FlexTouch (insulin degludec)

Generic name: insulin degludec
Brand name: Tresiba and Tresiba FlexTouch
Medication class: Insulin

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Lantus and Levemir in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: July 2021
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Vimpat (lacosamide)

Generic name: lacosamide
Brand name: Vimpat
Medication class: Anticonvulsant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of two of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Carbamazepine
 - Divalproex sodium or valproic acid
 - Felbamate
 - Gabapentin
 - Lamotrigine
 - Levetiracetam
 - Oxcarbazepine
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin
 - Pregabalin (Lyrica)
 - Topiramate
 - Zonisamide

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2019
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine)

Generic name: lisdexamfetamine
Brand name: Vyvanse
Medication class: CNS stimulant

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of a formulary generic amphetamine product (such as generic Adderall or generic Dexedrine) in the past 365 days

Step 2:

- Previous failure of formulary generic methylphenidate product (such as generic Ritalin, generic Concerta or generic Focalin) in the past 365 days

Additional considerations:

- Quantity Limit (QL) of 30 capsules per 30 days

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: April 2017
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Vyzulta (latanoprostene)

Generic name: latanoprostene
Brand name: Vyzulta
Medication class: Anti-glaucoma

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

- Previous failure of both of the following in the past 365 days:
 - Latanoprost
 - Travoprost

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: August 2020
Revision:

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Xifaxan (rifaximin)

Generic name: rifaximin
Brand name: Xifaxan
Medication class: Rifamycin

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of lactulose, dicyclomine, ciprofloxacin or azithromycin in the past 180 days

Additional considerations:

- Quantity limit (QL) of 60 tablets per 30 days for the 550 mg tablets
- Quantity limit (QL) of 180 tablets per 30 days for the 200 mg tablets

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: July 2015
Revision: October 2017

Step Therapy Approval Criteria

Xiidra (lifitegrast)

Generic name: lifitegrast
Brand name: Xiidra
Medication class: LFA-1 antagonist

Criteria for use: (steps are all inclusive unless otherwise noted)

Step 1:

- Previous failure of Restasis eye drops in the past 365 days.

Formulary Management Review:
Initial: October 2019
Revision: