

# Step therapy – Premium Formulary

Utilization management updates January 1, 2025



Most medical conditions have many medication options. Although their clinical effectiveness may be the same, the costs can be very different. The step therapy program gives you the treatment you need, usually at a lower cost.

**This is a list of medications that have been added to the step therapy program.**

## **Here's how it works:**

With this program, you must try a step 1 medication first, before a step 2 medication may be covered. When you bring a prescription to your pharmacy, our system will check the medication for step therapy requirements. If your pharmacy claims show you have tried a step 1 medication in the recent past, the step 2 medication may be filled. If not, the pharmacist will contact your doctor to explain next steps.

If you see your medication listed, we encourage you to talk with your doctor about your treatment and medication options. If you have questions about the step therapy program, call the phone number on your Optum Rx member ID card.

## Step therapy medications

The following medications have been added to a step therapy program. This means you must try a lower-cost medication (step 1) before a higher-cost medication (step 2) is covered.

Condition	Step 1	Step 2
<b>Anti-infectives</b>		
Bacterial Vaginosis Agents	Any one of the following generics: metronidazole 0.75% vaginal gel, clindamycin 2% vaginal cream	<b>VANDAOZOLE</b>
	Any one of the following generics: metronidazole 0.75% vaginal gel, clindamycin 2% vaginal cream, metronidazole tablet, tinidazole tablet	<b>SOLOSEC</b>
Oral Brand Tetracyclines	Any one of the following generics: doxycycline, minocycline	<b>AVIDOXY, MONDOXYNE NL, VIBRAMYCIN</b>
	Both of the following generics: doxycycline AND minocycline	<b>SEYSARA</b>
Otic Agents	Generic ofloxacin	<b>CETRAXAL</b>
<b>Cardiovascular</b>		
Renin-Angiotensin System Agents	Any one of the following generics: amlodipine-benazepril, amlodipine-olmesartan, benazepril, benazepril-HCTZ, candesartan, candesartan-HCTZ, captopril, captopril-HCTZ, enalapril, enalapril-HCTZ, fosinopril, fosinopril-HCTZ, irbesartan, irbesartan-HCTZ, lisinopril, lisinopril-HCTZ, losartan, losartan-HCTZ, moexipril, olmesartan, olmesartan-HCTZ, olmesartan-amlodipine-HCTZ, perindopril, quinapril, quinapril-HCTZ, ramipril, telmisartan, telmisartan-HCTZ, trandolapril, trandolapril-verapamil	<b>EDARBI, EDARBYCLOR, TEKTRUNA HCT</b>
Fibric Acid Derivatives	Any one of the following generics: fenofibric cap, fenofibrate tab, fenofibrate micronized cap, fenofibric acid tab AND preferred brand <b>LIPOFEN</b> or fenofibrate cap	<b>FENOGLIDE, FIBRICOR</b>
Statins	Any one of the following generics: atorvastatin, fluvastatin IR/ER, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin	<b>ALTOPREV, EZALLOR, FLOLIPID</b>
<b>Central Nervous System</b>		
ADHD Agents	Any one of the following generics: amphetamine-dextroamphetamine IR/ER, dexamethylphenidate IR/ER, dextroamphetamine IR/SR, methylphenidate IR/ER, lisdexamfetamine	<b>AZSTARYS<sup>2</sup>, JORNAY PM<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any three of the following generics: amphetamine-dextroamphetamine IR/ER, dexamethylphenidate IR/ER, dextroamphetamine IR/SR, methylphenidate IR/ER, lisdexamfetamine	<b>APTENSIO XR<sup>2</sup>, DESOXYN<sup>2</sup>, DEXEDRINE<sup>2</sup>, EVEKEO-ODT<sup>2</sup>, METHYLIN<sup>2</sup>, PROCENTRA<sup>2</sup>, RELEXXII<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any two of the following generics: atomoxetine, guanfacine ER, clonidine ER AND a methylphenidate class drug AND an amphetamine class drug	<b>KAPVAY</b>

**Bold type = Brand-name drug**

Plain type = Generic drug

Condition	Step 1	Step 2
Anticonvulsants <sup>3</sup>	Any one of the following generics: lamotrigine IR, levetiracetam IR/ER, oxcarbazepine IR, topiramate IR	<b>BRIVIACT, XCOPRI</b>
	Any one of the following generics: topiramate IR, topiramate IR sprinkle	topiramate ER
Antidepressants <sup>3</sup>	Generic bupropion ER	<b>APLENZIN<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any two of the following generics: desvenlafaxine ER, duloxetine, venlafaxine IR/ER	<b>FETZIMA<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any two of the following generics: bupropion, citalopram, desvenlafaxine ER, duloxetine, escitalopram, fluoxetine, mirtazapine, paroxetine IR/ER, sertraline, venlafaxine IR/ER	<b>DESVENLAFAXINE ER<sup>2</sup>, PAXIL suspension, TRINTELLIX<sup>2</sup></b>
Antidepressants	Generic vilazodone	<b>VIIBRYD<sup>2</sup></b>
Antipsychotics <sup>3</sup>	Any two of the following generics: aripiprazole, asenapine, clozapine, olanzapine, paliperidone, quetiapine IR/ER, risperidone, ziprasidone	<b>CAPLYTA<sup>2</sup>, FANAPT<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any one of the following preferred brands: <b>INVEGA SUSTENNA, INVEGA TRINZA</b>	<b>INVEGA HAFYERA</b>
Insomnia Agents	Any one of the following generics: doxepin, eszopiclone, temazepam, zaleplon, zolpidem IR/ER	<b>BELSOMRA<sup>2</sup>, DAYVIGO<sup>2</sup></b>
	Generic zolpidem IR/ER	<b>EDLUAR<sup>2</sup></b>
Migraine Agents	Any two of the following generics: almotriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan	sumatriptan-naproxen <sup>2</sup> , <b>ZOMIG NASAL<sup>2</sup>, ZOLMITRIPTAN SPRAY<sup>2</sup></b>
Neurologic Agents	Generic gabapentin IR	gabapentin (once-daily) <sup>2</sup> , <b>GRALISE<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any one of the following generics: amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, duloxetine, gabapentin IR, pregabalin	pregabalin ER <sup>2</sup> , <b>SAVELLA<sup>2</sup></b>
Non-Narcotic Analgesics	Any two of the following generics: celecoxib, diclofenac potassium tab, diclofenac sodium, diflunisal, etodolac, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamate, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, piroxicam, sulindac, tolmetin	diclofenac capsule, diclofenac powder, <b>INDOCIN SUPPOSITORY, INDOCIN SUSPENSION, INDOMETHACIN CAPSULE</b> , indomethacin suppository, indomethacin suspension, <b>LOFENA, MELOXICAM SUSPENSION, TIVORBEX</b>
Opioid Withdrawal	Generic clonidine	<b>LUCEMYRA<sup>2</sup></b>
Parkinson's Disease	Generic carbidopa-levodopa IR/CR	<b>RYTARY</b>
	Generic entacapone	<b>ONGENTYS</b>
	Both of the following generics: rasagiline AND selegiline	<b>XADAGO<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Dermatology</b>		
Rosacea	Any one of the following generic or preferred brands: azelaic acid gel, <b>FINACEA FOAM, SOOLANTRA</b>	<b>FINACEA GEL, ZILXI</b>

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Condition	Step 1	Step 2
Topical Immunomodulators	Generic tacrolimus ointment	pimecrolimus <sup>2</sup> , <b>PROTOPIC<sup>2</sup> ointment</b>
	Any one of the following topical generics: alclometasone, amcinonide, betamethasone, clobetasol, clocortolone, desonide, desoximetasone, diflorasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide, fluticasone, halcinonide, halobetasol, hydrocortisone, mometasone, prednicarbate, triamcinolone, pramoxine-HC, calcipotriene-betamethasone, tacrolimus, pimecrolimus	<b>EUCRISA</b>
	Any three of the following topical generics or preferred brands: clocortolone 0.1% cream, fluocinolone acetonide 0.025% ointment, flurandrenolide 0.05% ointment, fluticasone propionate 0.05% cream, hydrocortisone valerate 0.2% ointment, mometasone furoate 0.1% cream/lotion/solution, triamcinolone 0.1% cream/ointment, triamcinolone 0.05% ointment, triamcinolone aerosol spray, calcipotriene-betamethasone suspension, <b>TACLONEX SUSPENSION, ENSTILAR FOAM</b>	<b>SERNIVO</b>
Topical Miscellaneous Agents	Both of the following generics: fluorouracil AND imiquimod 5%	<b>KLISYRI</b>
	Generic imiquimod 5%	imiquimod 3.75%
<b>Endocrinology</b>		
Diabetic Agents	Any one of the following generics: metformin IR/ER, glipizide-metformin, glyburide-metformin, pioglitazone-metformin	<b>CYCLOSET, RIOMET</b>
DPP4 Inhibitors	Any one of the following generics: metformin IR/ER, glipizide-metformin, glyburide-metformin, pioglitazone-metformin	<b>JANUMET, JANUMET XR, JANUVIA, JENTADUETO, JENTADUETO XR, TRADJENTA</b>
	Any one of the following generics: metformin IR/ER, glipizide-metformin, glyburide-metformin, pioglitazone-metformin AND any one of the preferred brands: <b>JANUMET<sup>1</sup>, JANUMET XR<sup>1</sup>, JANUVIA<sup>1</sup></b> AND any one of the following preferred brands: <b>JENTADUETO<sup>1</sup>, JENTADUETO XR<sup>1</sup>, TRADJENTA<sup>1</sup></b>	saxagliptin, saxagliptin/metformin
<b>Gastroenterology</b>		
Constipation Agents	Any one of the following generics: lactulose, polyethylene glycol	<b>LINZESS<sup>2</sup>, SYMPROIC<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any one of the following generics: lactulose, polyethylene glycol AND preferred brand <b>LINZESS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>MOTEGRITY<sup>2</sup></b>
Proton Pump Inhibitors	Any two of the following generics: dexlansoprazole, esomeprazole, omeprazole, lansoprazole, pantoprazole, rabeprazole	<b>LANSOPRAZOLE SUSPENSION, FIRST-OMEPRAZOLE, FIRST-PANTOPRAZOLE, PRILOSEC PACKET<sup>2</sup>, PROTONIX PACKET<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Antigout Agents	Generic allopurinol	<b>ULORIC</b> , febuxostat
Iron Replacement	Any one of the following generics: ferrous sulfate, ferrous gluconate, ferrous fumarate	<b>FERAHEME</b> , ferumoxytol, <b>INJECTAFER, MONOFERRIC</b>

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Condition	Step 1	Step 2
Phosphate Binders	Any two of the following generics: calcium carbonate, calcium acetate, lanthanum carbonate, sevelamer carbonate, sevelamer HCl	<b>FOSRENOL, PHOSLYRA</b>
<b>Obstetrics and Gynecology</b>		
Contraceptives	Any one of the following generics: Gemmily, Merzee, Taysofy, norethindrone-ethinyl estradiol-ferrous fumarate	<b>TAYTULLA</b>
Hormone Replacement	Any one of the following preferred brands: <b>IMVEXXY, OSPHENA, PREMARIN VAGINAL CREAM</b>	<b>FEMRING<sup>2</sup></b>
	Any two of the following preferred brands: <b>IMVEXXY, OSPHENA, PREMARIN VAGINAL CREAM</b>	<b>INTRAROSA</b>
	Generic estradiol patch	<b>ALORA, MENOSTAR, MINIVELLE</b>
<b>Oncology</b>		
Chemotherapy Rescue Agents	Generic levoleucovorin	<b>KHAPZORY</b>
<b>Ophthalmology</b>		
Antiglaucoma Agents	All of the following generics and preferred brand: latanoprost AND travoprost AND <b>LUMIGAN</b>	<b>XELPROS<sup>2</sup></b>
Ophthalmic Antihistamines	Both of the following generics: azelastine AND olopatadine	bepotastine
Ophthalmic Antiinflammatory Agents	Any one of the following generic ophthalmic solutions: diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketorolac	bromfenac 0.07% <sup>2</sup> , bromfenac 0.075% <sup>2</sup>
<b>Respiratory</b>		
Epinephrine Auto Injectors	Generic epinephrine	<b>EPIPEN</b>
Leukotriene Modifiers	Any one of the following generics: montelukast, zafirlukast	zileuton ER, <b>ZYFLO</b>
Long-Acting Bronchodilator Combinations	Any one of the following preferred brands: <b>ADVAIR HFA, BREO ELLIPTA, SYMBICORT</b>	fluticasone/salmeterol diskus <sup>2</sup> , <b>WIXELA INHUB<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Urology</b>		
Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) Agents	Any two of the following generics: alfuzosin, doxazosin, silodosin, tamsulosin, terazosin	<b>CARDURA XL</b>
	Any one of the following generics: alfuzosin, doxazosin, tamsulosin, terazosin, silodosin AND any one of the following generics: finasteride, dutasteride, tadalafil 5 mg	<b>ENTADFI<sup>2</sup></b>
Overactive Bladder Agents	Any two of the following generics or preferred brand: fesoterodine, oxybutynin IR/ER, tolterodine IR/ER, trospium IR/ER, solifenacin, darifenacin ER, <b>MYRBETRIQ tablets</b>	<b>GELNIQUE, OXYTROL<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Generic First</b>		
Generic First Program	Generic equivalent	<b>RISPERDAL CONSTA</b>

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Step therapy requirements are effective as of January 1, 2025. The list of step therapy medications is subject to change without notice. Step therapy requirements may vary by benefit plan. Additional clinical programs, including quantity limits and prior authorization, may exist for the above medications which may affect your prescription drug coverage.

<sup>1</sup> These agents are also subject to additional step requirements as indicated in table.

<sup>2</sup> Quantity limits may also apply. Please refer to the Premium Quantity Limits document.

<sup>3</sup> Applies to new starts only



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**Premium**