



Division of Medical Services
Arkansas Medicaid Evidence-Based
Prescription Drug Program
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July 21, 2014

Subject: Evidenced-Based Prescription Drug List (PDL) re-review of Controller Medications for Asthma and Long-acting Medications to treat Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): Formoterol (Foradil® Aerolizer®; Performist®); Arformoterol (Brovana®); Indacaterol (Arcapta™ Neohaler™); Salmeterol (Serevent® Diskus®); Beclomethasone (QVAR®); Budesonide (Pulmicort® Respules®, Pulmicort® Flexhaler™); Fluticasone propionate (Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA); Flunisolide (Aerospan®); Mometasone (Asmanex® Twisthaler®); Ciclesonide (Alvesco®); Formoterol/budesonide (Symbicort®); Formoterol/mometasone (Dulera®); Salmeterol/fluticasone propionate (Advair® Diskus® Advair® HFA); Vilanterol/fluticasone furoate (Breo™ Ellipta™); Zileuton (Zyflo®, Zyflo® CR®); Montelukast (Singulair®); Zafirlukast (Accolate®); Roflumilast (Daliresp®).

The following medications have been *ADDED to PREFERRED status* in the Inhaled Corticosteroids (ICS) drug class in the Asthma and COPD Controller drug classes: **Pulmicort® (budesonide) Flexhaler™, and Aerospan™ (flunisolide) inhaler. The status change to PREFERRED STATUS for these agents is effective July 2, 2014. However, until the system changes can be updated on Sept. 23, 2014 to allow these claims to go through at point of sale, please call the PDL PA Call Center to request one of these medications.**

The medications that will *CONTINUE as PREFERRED status* agents in the Asthma and COPD Controller drug classes are:

ICS: Flovent® (fluticasone propionate) HFA Inhaler and Flovent® Diskus®;
ICS/Long-Acting Beta-2 Agonist (LABA): Symbicort® (formoterol/budesonide) inhaler, Dulera® (formoterol/mometasone furoate) inhaler;
Leukotriene modifiers: montelukast (generic Singulair®);

Clinical edits, dose edits, and therapeutic duplication edits may apply to the preferred medications in these drug classes. Please refer to the Medicaid pharmacy program website at <https://www.medicaid.state.ar.us/InternetSolution/Provider/pharm/scrpinfo.aspx#ClinicalEdits> and <https://www.medicaid.state.ar.us/InternetSolution/Provider/pharm/scrpinfo.aspx#ClaimEdits> for details on these point-of-sale (POS) prior authorization criteria edits.

Beginning Sept. 23, 2014, the following medications in the Asthma and COPD Controller drug classes will be *MOVED TO NON-PREFERRED STATUS* for asthma and COPD:
ICS: QVAR® (beclomethasone), Asmanex® Twisthaler® (mometasone furoate);
ICS/LABA: Advair Diskus® and Advair® HFA inhaler (fluticasone propionate/salmeterol xinaforate), Breo® Ellipta™ (vilanterol/fluticasone furoate) inhaler;
LABA: Brovana® (arformoterol), Performist® (formoterol fumarate), Foradil® Aerolizer® (formoterol fumarate/eformoterol), Serevent® (salmeterol xinafoate), Arcapta™ Neohaler™ (indacaterol maleate).
Phosphodiesterase-4: Daliresp® (roflumilast);

The following agents will remain non-preferred in the Asthma and COPD Controller drug classes: Budesonide nebulizer solution (Pulmicort Respules®), ciclesonide inhaler (Alvesco®), zafirlukast (Accolate®) oral tablet, and zileuton (Zyflo®) oral tablet.

Non-preferred agents in the Asthma and COPD Controller drug classes will reject at point-of-sale. If the prescriber believes that a non-preferred product is medically necessary and the patient does not meet applicable POS edits, the prescriber must contact the PDL Prior Authorization (PA) Call Center (see

phone number above) to speak directly with a clinical pharmacist and may also submit written documentation of medical necessity to a physician at the PDL PA Call Center concerning the request for a non-preferred status drug. After a PA request is approved and entered into the system, the pharmacy can fill the prescription and submit the claim.

This advance notice is to provide you the opportunity to contact, counsel, and change patients on less proven or less cost-effective medicines to the Arkansas Medicaid-preferred drug. If you are an Arkansas Medicaid provider and have prescriptions attributed to your provider ID number by the dispensing pharmacy, we are attaching a list of those patients who have been identified as receiving prescriptions for drugs that are not on the preferred drug list in the referenced class. If you are not currently prescribing the referenced drug(s) or are not prescribing drugs in the referenced class(es), this provider notice is being submitted to you for informational purposes only.

Note: You are reminded that protected health information (PHI) may not be disclosed. Therefore you are advised to redact all PHI belonging to other individuals from this list prior to placing this list in a patient file.

If you need this material in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact our Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at (501) 682-6789 or 1-877-708-8191. Both telephone numbers are voice and TDD.

Arkansas Medicaid provider manuals (including update transmittals), official notices, and remittance advice (RA) messages are available for downloading from the Arkansas Medicaid website: www.medicaid.state.ar.us.