

March 2021

medical benefit specialty drug update **bulletin**

Specialty Drug Program Updates for UnitedHealthcare Commercial, Community Plan, Medicare Advantage, and Value & Balance Exchange

Review the following tables to determine changes to our specialty medical injectable drug programs.

SPECIALTY MEDICAL INJECTABLE DRUGS ADDED TO REVIEW AT LAUNCH

Drug Name	UnitedHealthcare Commercial	UnitedHealthcare Community Plan	UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage	UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange	Treatment Uses
Evkeeza™ (evinacumab-dgnb)	X	X		X	Add-on treatment for patients aged 12 years and older with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH), a genetic condition that causes severely high cholesterol.
Amondys-45™ (casimersen)	X	X		X	For the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in patients who have a confirmed mutation of the DMD gene that is amenable to exon 45 skipping.

To view the **UnitedHealthcare Commercial Plan** Review at Launch Medication List, go to UHCprovider.com > Policies and Protocols > Commercial Policies > Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for UnitedHealthcare Commercial Plans > *Review at Launch for New to Market Medications* > [Review at Launch Medication List](#).

To view the **UnitedHealthcare Community Plan** Review at Launch Drug List Plan, go to UHCprovider.com > Policies and Protocols > Community Plan Policies > Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for Community Plan > *Review at Launch for New to Market Medications* > [Review at Launch Medication List](#).

To view the **UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Plan** Review at Launch Medication List, go to UHCprovider.com > Policies and Protocols > Exchange Plans Policies > Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Plans > *Review at Launch for New to Market Medications* > [Review at Launch Medication List](#).



UPDATES TO DRUG PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND DRUG POLICIES

Drug Name	Effective Date	UHC Commercial	UHC Community Plan	UHC Medicare Advantage	UHC Value & Balance Exchange	Treatment Uses	Summary of Changes
Xiaflex®	Apr. 1, 2021	X				Treatment of Dupuytren's contracture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding notification/prior authorization requirement Adding Admin Guide Medication Sourcing requirement (<i>additional information below</i>)
Riabni™ (rituximab-arrx)	Jun. 1, 2021		X			Rituximab is for the treatment of several cancer and noncancer-related conditions, including immune thrombocytopenic purpura, pemphigus vulgaris, Wegener's granulomatosis, rheumatoid arthritis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding notification/prior authorization requirement Preferred products: Ruxience® and Truxima®; Rituxan®, Rituxan Hycela® and Riabni™ will be non-preferred.

UnitedHealthcare will honor all approved prior authorizations on file until the end date on the authorization or the date the member's eligibility changes. Providers don't need to submit a new notification/prior authorization request for members who already have an authorization for these medications on the effective date noted above. Upon prior authorization renewal, the updated policy will apply.

Administrative Guide Medication Sourcing Requirement for Xiaflex – Apr. 1, 2021

As a reminder, the 2021 Care Provider Administrative Guide includes information on medication sourcing requirements for in-network providers. The sourcing requirement for some specialty medications apply to all outpatient care providers (referred to as Medication Sourcing) while other sourcing requirements only apply to outpatient hospital providers (referred to as Medication Sourcing Expansion). Xiaflex will be placed under Medication Sourcing Program that applies to all outpatient care providers, effective Apr. 1, 2021.

We have contracted specialty pharmacies for the distribution of these specialty medications. Our participating specialty pharmacy providers give fulfillment and distribution services to meet the needs of our members and our care providers. Effective Apr. 1, 2021, you must acquire Xiaflex from US Bioservices, unless otherwise authorized by us. The requirement does not apply when Medicare or another health benefit plan is the primary payer and we are the secondary payer. Contact your local UnitedHealthcare network management representative if you have any questions.

Note: Certain specialty medical injectable drug programs and updates will not be implemented at this time for providers practicing in Rhode Island, with respect to certain commercial members, pursuant to the Rhode Island regulation: 230-RICR-20-30-14. UnitedHealthcare encourages providers practicing in Rhode Island to call in to confirm if prior authorization is required. This exception does not apply to Medicaid and Medicare.



UnitedHealthcare Commercial Plan Outpatient Medical Benefit Injectable Medication Prior Authorization Process Change for Erythropoieses Stimulating Agents

In Oct. 2019, Optum – an affiliate company of UnitedHealthcare – began managing prior authorization requests for certain medical benefit injectable medications for UnitedHealthcare commercial plan members. This included the affiliate plans UnitedHealthcare of Mid-Atlantic, Inc., Neighborhood Health Partnership and UnitedHealthcare of the River Valley. Beginning April 1, 2021 the prior authorization reviews for Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents will now also follow this process for all non-oncology and non-end stage renal disease (ESRD) diagnoses.

Providers should continue to request notification/prior authorization for oncology diagnoses and ESRD diagnoses, along with UnitedHealthcare Oxford, UMR, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan and UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage members through the existing processes until future notice. The new process is designed to ease the administrative burden of obtaining a prior authorization while also reducing the turnaround time for a determination. The system will document clinical requirements during the intake process and prompt providers to provide responses to the clinical criteria questions. Please attach medical records, if requested, to support the review.

How the New Process Works

Providers will submit prior authorization requests online using the Specialty Pharmacy Transactions tool on Link.

- Sign in to Link by going to UHCprovider.com and clicking on the Link button in the top right corner.
- Select the Specialty Pharmacy Transactions tile on the Notification and Prior Authorization Link dashboard. Providers will be directed to the new website we're using to process these authorization requests.

If providers administer any of these medications without first completing the notification/prior authorization process, the claim may be denied. Members can't be billed for services denied due to failure to complete the notification/prior authorization process.