

May 2021

# medical benefit specialty drug update **bulletin**

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

To view the **UnitedHealthcare Commercial Plan** Review at Launch Medication List, go to [UHCprovider.com](https://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](https://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](#).



The **UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage** Review at Launch drugs are added as Review at Launch Part B Medications in the *Medications/Drugs (Outpatient/Part B) Coverage Summary*. To view the summary, go to [UHCprovider.com](https://UHCprovider.com) > Policies and Protocols > Medicare Advantage Policies > Coverage Summaries for Medicare Advantage Plans > [Medications/Drugs \(Outpatient/Part B\) – Medicare Advantage Coverage Summary](#) > *Attachment A: Guideline 5 – Other Examples of Specific Drugs/Medications*.

To view the **UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Plan** Review at Launch Medication List, go to [UHCprovider.com](https://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
Nplate®	Aug. 1, 2021		X			To treat Chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) in patients that haven't responded to corticosteroids, immunoglobulins, or a splenectomy. It is also used to treat acute radiation exposure in patients that have received myelosuppressive doses of radiation.	Add notification/prior authorization requirement.



Upon prior authorization renewal, the updated policy will apply. 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.

### **Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) – UHC Commercial Prior Authorization Change**

Beginning August 1, 2021 HTCs seeking coverage under a member's medical benefit for self-administered medications used to treat bleeding disorders must be contracted with a specific HTC fee schedule that allows them to dispense bleeding disorder medications for UHC Commercial members. On or after August 1, 2021, HTCs not contracted with an HTC specific fee schedule will need to transition self-administering members to a participating specialty pharmacy or an HTC already contracted with an HTC fee schedule when their current prior authorization expires.

HTCs that do not have an HTC fee schedule and want to continue to participate should send their request for consideration to the National Ancillary Provider Inquiry dedicated inbox at [naspi@uhc.com](mailto:naspi@uhc.com). Providers will receive a questionnaire to be completed and returned. If an HTC needs to understand and is unsure if they are already on contracted with an HTC specific fee schedule, should contact to their assigned UHC Hospital or Ancillary contractor with their inquiry.

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.