

# Prescription Drug Plan

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas utilizes Prime Therapeutics LLC as our pharmacy benefit manager to administer certain core services in our pharmacy program that will help contain rising drug costs and maintain and improve the quality of care delivered to members. **Reference your plan's Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) for more information.**

Prime Therapeutics is responsible for:

- Processing and paying Rx claims
- Developing and maintaining the drug formulary
- Contracting with pharmacy networks
- Negotiating discounts and rebates from manufacturers

BCBSTX employs a number of industry-standard management strategies to ensure appropriate drug utilization and the use of cost-effective drug therapies. These strategies include:

- Formulary management
- Benefit design modeling
- Specialty pharmacy benefits
- Clinical programs and tools aimed at reducing inappropriate prescribing

All strategies and services are necessary to improve the value of our drug benefits, monitor drug safety and ultimately improve the health outcomes of our members.

To receive benefits, you must use a participating pharmacy. Visit [www.myprime.com](http://www.myprime.com), or call 877-794-3574 for a list of allowed drugs or participating pharmacies in your area. Your medications may fall under a different cost tier.

## Disease Management Maintenance Drugs

Certain generic Disease Management Maintenance Drugs are offered at \$0, including medications for hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

## Generic Drugs

You can get your medicine from either a retail network pharmacy or through Prime Therapeutics mail order program. To make the most of your savings, we encourage you to ask for a generic medicine whenever possible. Generic medicines must meet the same FDA safety requirements as more expensive medicines to treat the same condition.

## Wellness Drugs for HSA Plans (HSA 3300)

If you are enrolled in the HSA Plan (HSA 3300), certain wellness drugs (for prevention rather than treatment) are only subject to copays after the deductible is met. Non-wellness drugs are subject to the in-network deductible.



## Prior Authorization

Some medicines have to be approved by a doctor before you can start them. The reason is because some medicines are only approved or effective for certain health conditions. Prior authorizations help manage costs, control drug abuse, and protect your safety. They give you a chance to have the best possible treatment outcomes.

## Step Therapy

Most health conditions can be treated using various medicines.

Although they may work in much the same way, their prices can vary quite a lot. With the step therapy program, you can still get the treatment you need—often at a lower cost.

### Here's how the step therapy program works:

- You'll try a **Step 1 medicine** *before* a **Step 2 medicine** will be covered.
- That means you'll try a less expensive medicine (**Step 1**) before trying one that costs more (**Step 2**).
- Based on the results of **Step 1**, a **Step 2** medicine may be processed and covered.
- When you bring a prescription to your pharmacy, our system will automatically check to see if it meets the requirements for step therapy.
- If you have already filed pharmacy claims and they show you've tried a **Step 1** medicine that didn't work for you, the **Step 2** medicine may then be processed.
- But, if you have not recently tried a **Step 1** medicine, the pharmacist will ask your doctor for more details.

Always talk with your doctor about the choices you have for your treatments and medicines and check the Navitus app while you're at the doctor's office. That way, you will know whether a drug requires step therapy before you go to the pharmacy.

## Specialty Review Unit

Prime Therapeutics helps ensure that you are getting the right prescription based on the latest research, the best dosage for you, and other factors. If they believe there is a better alternative, they will reach out to your medical provider to discuss your prescription.