

We wanted to share this prescription update we just received from BCBS. Mounjaro will newly be covered FOR DIABETES ONLY starting 12/1. Victoza will not be covered.

Our Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi RxSmart Prescription Drug Benefit program helps Group and Individual Members, along with their Network Providers, make the most of their healthcare dollars by supporting smart decisions regarding prescription drugs. While diabetes, in particular type 2 diabetes, is prevalent in our state, we know important lifestyle changes are the best start to gain better control of type 2 diabetes to manage health risks, quality of life and healthcare costs. When lifestyle changes are not enough to control blood sugar levels, the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi RxSmart program identifies which drugs have the **highest clinical efficacy and safety**, whether certain drugs are necessary for managing a condition, and which drugs have lower-cost alternatives. We continually monitor the clinical efficacy and cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs. Based on the most up-to-date data and research, coverage for certain type 2 diabetes medications will be changing soon.

Mounjaro

Effective December 1, 2023, Mounjaro **will be added** to the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Prescription Drug Formulary as a preferred GLP-1 Agonist alongside Ozempic, Rybelsus and Trulicity for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. With this formulary addition, current GLP-1 Agonist prior authorizations will be seamlessly transitioned to allow coverage of the preferred GLP-1 Agonist prescribed for type 2 diabetes: Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, **or** Trulicity. For Members already approved for a GLP-1 Agonist, a new prior authorization to switch from one preferred medication to another is not required. The Member's Provider will need to send a new prescription to the Member's Network Pharmacy. The Member's copay will not change.

Victoza

Effective January 1, 2024, **Victoza will no longer be a covered** GLP-1 Agonist for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, and Trulicity are more clinically effective than Victoza and are lower-cost alternatives. A limited number of Members will be impacted.

Members who have purchased Victoza in the last three months will be mailed a letter with more information. These Members' Providers will not need to submit a new prior authorization for coverage as Victoza prior authorizations will be seamlessly transitioned to allow coverage of the new preferred GLP-1 Agonist prescribed for type 2 diabetes: Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, **or** Trulicity. The Member's Provider will need to submit a new prescription to the Member's Network Pharmacy. The Member's copay will not change.

Additionally, we are educating Providers on the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Prescription Drug Formulary change and what Providers need to do to ensure continued access to formulary type 2 diabetes medications.

Reminder: Please be reminded the current preferred GLP-1 Agonists are FDA-approved for treatment of type 2 diabetes and **are not covered for weight loss**. GLP-1 Agonists that are FDA-approved for chronic weight management (Wegovy, Zepbound) are also **not covered on any Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Prescription Drug Formulary**.

Be sure to remind Groups and Members about the importance of taking ownership of their prescription drug choices by using *myBlue* to search for Network Pharmacies and to use the drug search feature for lower-cost prescription drug alternatives.

Thank you for your continued support and promotion of our *be RxSmart* program, and the value it brings our Groups and Members in managing the cost of prescription drugs. Groups will be provided information concerning these changes later today. If you have questions about these changes, please contact our Agent Customer Support Team at (601) 664-4469.

Best of Health!

Thank You,
Charli Armes



Giving you our best is the least we can do.

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