



Pharmacy Passages

Health Exchange Essential Health Benefit (EHB) Formulary Update

April 2025

The following formulary decisions and updates apply to **Western Health Advantage EHB Formulary**.

The Optum Rx Business Committee meets monthly to evaluate tier placements and new prescription products approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This committee makes decisions based on information and recommendations from the Optum Rx Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, comprised of independent physician providers and pharmacists.

The following are the strategic clinical decisions made in the past month. Your actual plan's copays and/or coinsurance may differ from those indicated depending on the selected plan design, which determines coverage and pharmacy provider(s).

EHB Tiers
Generic/Preferred Brand = Tier 1
Preferred Brand/Non-Preferred Generic = Tier 2
Non-Preferred Brand = Tier 3
Specialty = Tier 4
Excluded = EXC
Office Administered = OA
Include preventive (PV) drugs which may have \$0 when health care reform requirements are met.
Key SP: Specialty Pharmacy PA: Prior Authorization ST: Step Therapy QL: Quantity Limits

Down-tiers

Medications may move to a lower tier or be added to the formulary throughout the year, helping members take immediate advantage of cost savings. Utilization management strategies such as Step Therapy, Quantity Limits or Prior Authorization may apply.

Please note there are no new down-tiers at this time.

Up-tiers

Medications may move to a higher tier on Jan. 1 or July 1 for drugs with generic availability. Utilization management strategies such as Step Therapy, Quantity Limits or Prior Authorization may apply.

Therapeutic use	Medication name	EHB Base	Effective Date
Gastrointestinal Agents	Motegrity (prucalipride) Tab	Tier 3 → EXC	7/1/2025
Oncology	Votrient (pazopanib) Tab	Tier 4 → EXC	7/1/2025
Respiratory Agents	Spiriva (tiotropium) Cap Handihaler	Tier 2 → EXC	7/1/2025
	Symbicort (budesonide-formoterol) AER 160-4.5	Tier 2 → EXC	7/1/2025
	Symbicort (budesonide-formoterol) AER 80-4.5	Tier 2 → EXC	7/1/2025

EXC: Excluded

New brand launches

New brand name medications and new strengths launch throughout the year. Final coverage status for new medications is determined after thorough review by the Optum Rx Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee. New brand launches may include Authorized Brand Alternatives.*

Please note there are no new brand launch updates at this time.

New generic launches

New generic medication launches occur throughout the year.

Please note there are no generic launch updates at this time.

PA Prior Authorization

Prior Authorization requires physicians to provide additional clinical information to verify member benefit coverage. This table only shows Prior Authorizations that have been added or removed. Existing utilization management such as Step Therapy and Quantity Limits may still apply.

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.

ST Step Therapy

Step Therapy directs members to try a lower-cost alternative (Step 1) before a higher-cost medication (Step 2) may be eligible for coverage. This table only shows Step Therapy that has been added or removed. Existing utilization management such as Prior Authorizations and Quantity Limits may still apply.

Therapeutic use	Medication name	Add/Remove	Effective date
Antidiabetic Agents	Janumet (sitagliptin-metformin) Tab	Remove	5/1/25
	Janumet XR (sitagliptin-metformin) ER Tab	Remove	5/1/25
	Januvia (sitagliptin) Tab	Remove	5/1/25
	Jentaduetto (linagliptin-metformin) Tab	Remove	5/1/25
	Jentaduetto XR (linagliptin-metformin) ER Tab	Remove	5/1/25
	Trajenta (linagliptin) Tab	Remove	5/1/25
Respiratory Agents	zileuton ER Tab	Remove	4/1/25

QL

Quantity Limits

Quantity limits establish the maximum quantity of a drug that is covered within a specified timeframe. This table only shows Quantity Limits that have been added or removed. Existing utilization management such as Prior Authorizations and Step Therapy may still apply.

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.

AR

Age restrictions (this applies to a limited number of clinical programs)

Please note there are no additions or removals of this restriction at this time.



If you would like additional information that is not listed,
please contact your Optum Rx representative.

Optum Rx[®]

At Optum, we help create a healthier world, one insight, one connection, one person at a time.

All Optum trademarks and logos are owned by Optum, Inc., in the U.S. and other jurisdictions. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

© 2025 OptumRx, Inc. All rights reserved. M58619-B EHB April 2025