

CS Trust Bulletin

September 2023



ACA Preventive Items and Services Standard Offering Changes

Below is a summary of upcoming changes to the ACA Preventive Items and Services standard offering:

- Copay exception criteria
 - Rolling updates for multiple drug categories from September 1, 2023, to December 15, 2023
All standard options will now include copay exception criteria that:
 - Align with U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recommendations
 - Include the Tri-Agency requirement that if the prescriber determines that the preventive product is medically appropriate for a specific individual, a plan or issuer must cover that product for that individual without cost-sharing
- Statins
 - Addition of high-dose statins to copay exception review effective September 1, 2023
- Immunizations
 - Change to age limits for Shingrix effective January 1, 2024
 - Beginning January 1, 2024, the Express Scripts standard offering will be updated to include \$0 coverage of Shingrix from the current age limit of ≥ 50 to the new age limit of ≥ 19 .
 - Monitoring for the addition of a new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) product, Beyfortus
- Aspirin
 - New offering effective January 1, 2024
 - Beginning January 1, 2024, the Express Scripts standard aspirin offering will include \$0 coverage of generic 81mg aspirin with no age limit. A copay exception review will also be available for members who are charged a standard copay but want to be considered for a \$0 cost share.

Advanced Utilization Management Program Update

The Express Scripts Advanced Utilization Management program will be updated on September 1, 2023, and the changes are noted below. There will be no member impact.

- The Topical Tretinoin Prior Authorization and COX-2 Step Therapy will be retired.
 - Rationale: These rules are dominated by lower-cost generic drugs and based on our review are only driving higher member impact and not savings, therefore not delivering significant overall value.
- The Naloxone Step Therapy will be retired.
 - Rationale: All targeted products are no longer available on the market.

- Eliquis, Pradaxa, Xarelto and Savaysa (blood thinners) Prior Authorizations will be removed from the Advantage Plus Prior Authorization list.
 - o Rationale: These medications have high approval rates, and off-label utilization is very uncommon.
- Testosterone (Injectable Nasal, Oral, Transdermal) Prior Authorizations will be removed from the Nonessential Therapy Prior Authorization list.
 - o Rationale: These prior authorizations are dominated by lower-cost generic drugs and based on our review are only driving higher member impact and not savings, therefore not delivering significant overall value.

National Preferred Formulary 2024 Updates

On January 1, 2024, Express Scripts will exclude 40 additional products from the NPF, demonstrating their commitment to minimizing healthcare waste by excluding high-cost medications that may not provide greater clinical results.

The list of new exclusions, preferred alternatives, and preferred to non-preferred changes is available [here](#).



Flu Shot Initiative

Flu shots are being offered again this year through the Geisinger wellness initiative. Please share the attached flyer that provides details on Geisinger's flu shot events and opportunities with your staff.

LINK FLYER HERE

Please note that the process has changed this year due to Geisinger's staffing shortages and the cancelation of over 65% of last year's scheduled wellness employer events due to low participation.

Staff will need to provide their medical insurance card at the time of vaccination.

Geisinger and Kaiser Permanente Business Update

Below is a recently published update from Geisinger:

Geisinger and Kaiser Permanente are launching a transformative solution for healthcare in America called Risant Health — a new nonprofit organization created by Kaiser Foundation Hospitals. Upon regulatory review and approval, Geisinger will be acquired by Risant Health and then become the first member of Risant Health, a new nonprofit designed to accelerate the adoption of value-based care in communities across the country.

Bringing together Geisinger's industry-leading team with the resources of Kaiser Permanente will enhance our capabilities to care for even more people and communities and fast-track our vision to make better health easier, more accessible and more affordable for our members and commercial clients.

A few things to know:

- *Employer groups and their employees will continue to have choice of — and access to — world-class healthcare services through our commercial health plans.*
- *Our provider network remains as it is today. Not only will your employees still have full access to all Geisinger facilities and providers, but Geisinger will continue to partner with non-Geisinger providers to offer a full range of healthcare options to our members.*
- *By joining Risant Health, our employer group partners and plan members will ultimately see enhanced service and more care options. Geisinger will continue to invest in our facilities and digital technology.*

• A major focus will be bringing more value to our members through some of the leading-edge, consumer-friendly digital tools that Kaiser Permanente offers its patients and health plan members.

• Geisinger employees will remain Geisinger employees. Day-to-day operations will continue to focus on delivering great care, providing excellent support to our care teams and offering outstanding customer service. Under Risant Health, Geisinger's name and mission —and what our communities and customers expect from us — will be preserved. We value our relationship with our employer groups, and we look forward to continuing to meet your needs and your employees' needs tomorrow and well into the future.



Capital Blue Cross has now added a new digital tool for health management at no cost to qualified participants.

Omada is a [health management smartphone app](#) that normally costs over \$700 a year and is now included in the Capital Blue Cross health plan.

Omada has programs available for both weight loss and diabetes. A participant can take the quick online quiz to see if they qualify for the program. The app can be downloaded through either Google Play or the App Store.

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