November 2025

Performance Drug Formulary changes

Blue Shield of California is committed to providing access to safe, effective, and affordable medications for our members. That's why we review and update our drug formularies four times per year. Any changes are made by our Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee. The committee is made up of a group of practicing physicians and pharmacists.

We make changes to our formulary based on:

- New clinical guidelines
- New information from key physician experts
- Updates from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Recent medical literature

See below for changes to the *Performance Drug Formulary* from the P&T Committee as of **December 2025**. Please visit our website to download a copy of the *Performance Drug Formulary*.

The drugs listed below are used for FDA-approved indications, but may also be used for other conditions.

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier
alprazolam er tablet (Xanax XR)	Panic disorder	Quantity limit	Tier 1
arformoterol tartrate nebulizer solution (Brovana)	COPD	Quantity limit	Tier 1
bimatoprost 0.03% ophthalmic solution (Lumigan)	Glaucoma	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 1
brinzolamide 1% ophthalmic suspension (Azopt)		Step therapy	Tier 2
brimonidine tartrate 0.1% ophthalmic solution (Alphagan P)			
timolol hemihydrate 0.5% ophthalmic solution (Betimol)			
bromfenac sodium 0.09% ophthalmic solution (Bromday)	Post-op ocular inflammation and pain		Tier 1

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier
cyclosporine 0.05% ophthalmic emulsion single-use vial (Restasis)	Dry eye disease	Quantity limit	Tier 1
calcitriol 1mcg/ml oral solution (Rocaltrol)	Hyperparathyroidism, Hypocalcemia		Tier 1
paricalcitol capsule (Zemplar)	Hyperparathyroidism		Tier 1
carisoprodol 250mg tablet (Soma)	Acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions	Age limit, Quantity limit	Tier 1
metaxalone 400mg, 800mg tablet (Skelaxin)			Tier 2
orphenadrine citrate 100mg tablet		Age limit	Tier 1
tizanidine 2mg, 4mg, 6mg capsule (Zanaflex)	Spasticity		Tier 1
cephalexin 250mg, 500mg tablet	Bacterial infection		Tier 1
fidaxomicin 200mg tablet (Dificid)	C. difficile diarrhea	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 2
terconazole 80mg vaginal suppository	Vulvovaginal candidiasis		Tier 1
clobetasol propionate 0.05% foam (Olux)	Steroid-responsive dermatoses		Tier 1
desonide 0.05% lotion			
dabigatran etexilate mesylate 75mg, 110mg, 150mg capsule (Pradaxa)	Atrial fibrillation, DVT/PE, VTE	Quantity limit	Tier 1
Eliquis Sprinkle capsule, Eliquis tablet for suspension	Venous thromboembolism	Quantity limit	Tier 2
doxepin 3mg, 6mg tablet (Silenor)	Insomnia	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2
triazolam 0.125mg, 0.25mg tablet (Halcion)		Quantity limit	Tier 1
darifenacin hydrobromide (Enablex)	Overactive bladder	Quantity limit	Tier 1
diazoxide oral suspension (Proglycem)	Hypoglycemia due to hyperinsulinism		Tier 2
doxylamine-pyridoxine (Diclegis)	Nausea and vomiting of pregnancy	Quantity limit	Tier 1
eslicarbazepine acetate (Aptiom)	Partial-onset seizures	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2
rufinamide tablet (Banzel)	Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2
fenofibrate micronized 43mg, 130mg capsule (Antara)	Hypertriglyceridemia, Hyperlipidemia	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 1

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier
insulin glargine-yfgn *(by CivicaScript)*	Diabetes	Quantity limit	Tier 2
isradipine (DynaCirc)	Hypertension		Tier 1
moexipril (Univasc)			Tier 1
nisoldipine (Sular)			Tier 2
Liomny	Hypothyroidism, Thyroid cancer, Thyroid suppression test		Tier 1
liraglutide (Saxenda)	Weight management	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 3
lubiprostone (Amitiza)	Constipation	Age limit, Quantity limit	Tier 1
Luizza	Contraceptive		Tier 1
Orquidea			
Valtya			
Milophene	Infertility		Tier 1
progesterone 100mg vaginal insert (Endometrin)		Prior authorization	Tier 2
diclofenac-misoprostol (Arthrotec)	OA or RA and high-risk for NSAID-induced gastric or duodenal ulcers		Tier 1
naproxen sodium 275mg, 550mg tablet (Anaprox, Anaprox DS)	RA, OA, AS, pJIA, Tendonitis, Brusitis, Acute gout, Pain, Dysmenorrhea		Tier 1
salsalate 500mg, 750mg tablet	RA, OA		Tier 1
pentazocine-naloxone hcl (Talwin NX)	Pain	Age limit, Quantity limit	Tier 1
memantine er capsule (Namenda XR)	Alzheimer's dementia	Quantity limit	Tier 1
pramipexole dihydrochloride er tablet (Mirapex ER)	Parkinson's disease	Quantity limit	Tier 2
fluvoxamine maleate er capsule (Luvox CR)	OCD	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2
paliperidone er tablet (Invega)	Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder	Quantity limit	Tier 1
quetiapine fumarate er tablet (Seroquel XR)	Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, Major depressive disorder		Tier 1
paroxetine er tablet (Paxil CR)	Depression, Panic disorder, Social anxiety disorder		Tier 1

1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier
venlafaxine hcl 37.5mg, 75mg, 150mg extended-release tablet 24hr	Depression, Social anxiety disorder	Quantity limit	Tier 1
paroxetine mesylate (Brisdelle)	Vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause	Quantity limit	Tier 1
potassium chloride 20meq/15ml (10%), 40meq/15ml (20%) oral solution	Hypokalemia		Tier 1
potassium & sodium citrate-citric acid oral solution	Urinary alkalinization, Renal tubular acidosis		Tier 1
progesterone 50mg/ml in oil for injection	Amenorrhea, Abnormal uterine bleeding		Tier 1
pyridostigmine bromide 60mg/5ml oral solution	Myasthenia gravis	Quantity limit	Tier 2
pyridostigmine bromide 180mg er tablet			
Se-natal 19	Prenatal vitamin		Tier 1
Select-OB		Quantity limit	
testosterone 30mg/actuation (Axiron)	Hypogonadism	Prior authorization, Quantity limit	Tier 1

2. Formulary drugs with tier status and/or coverage restriction changes

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	New tier status
brimonidine tartrate 0.15% ophthalmic solution (Alphagan P)	Glaucoma		Tier 2
cefpodoxime proxetil tablet	Bacterial infection		Tier 1
lidocaine 5% ointment	Pain	Quantity limit	Tier 1
lurasidone (Latuda)	Schizophrenia, Bipolar depression	Quantity limit	Tier 1
olanzapine odt (Zyprexa Zydus)			

3. Drugs added to specialty tier (Tier 4)

Specialty drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)
bosentan 32mg tablet for suspension (Tracleer)	PAH	Prior authorization, Quantity limit

3. Drugs added to specialty tier (Tier 4)

Specialty drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)
Brukinsa 180mg tablet	MCL, Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia, MZL, CLL, SLL, NHL	Prior authorization, Quantity limit
Doptelet Sprinkle	Thrombocytopenia	Prior authorization, Quantity limit
everolimus 0.25mg, 0.5mg, 0.75mg, 1mg tablet (Zortress)	Kidney and liver transplantation rejection prophylaxis	Quantity limit
Otezla XR, Otezla/Otezla XR Initiation Pack	Psoriatic arthritis, Plaque psoriasis, Behcet's disease	Prior authorization, Quantity limit
Vyvgart Hytrulo	Generalized myasthenia gravis, Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy	Prior authorization, Quantity limit

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1. Drugs added to the formulary

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	Tier
mirabegron (Myrbetriq)	Overactive bladder, Neurogenic detrusor overactivity	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2

2. Formulary drugs with tier status and/or coverage restriction changes

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)	New tier status
fluoxetine 10mg, 20mg tablet	Premenstrual dysphoric disorder	Quantity limit	Tier 2
amlodipine-valsartan-hctz (Exforge HCT)	Hypertension	Step therapy, Quantity limit	Tier 2
Prenaissance	Prenatal vitamin		Tier 2

3. Drugs added to specialty tier (Tier 4)

Specialty drug	FDA indication(s)	Coverage restriction(s)
Fulphila	Chemotherapy-induced neutropenia, Acute radiation syndrome	Prior authorization

4. Drugs removed from the formulary

Brand-name drugs removed from the formulary due to an available generic drug. The generic has been added to the formulary.

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Alternative(s)
Endometrin[2]	Infertility	progesterone vaginal insert
Entresto	Heart failure	sacubitril-valsartan
Dificid	C. difficile diarrhea	vancomycin, fidaxomicin
Epipen, Epipen Jr.	Allergic reaction	epinephrine auto-injector
Klor-con ER tablet	Hypokalemia	potassium chloride er tablet
Promacta[1]	Thrombocytopenia, Aplastic anemia	eltrombopag olamine
Revlimid[1]	Multiple myeloma, MDS, Mantle cell lymphoma, Follicular lymphoma, Marginal zone lymphoma	lenalidomide
Qsymia	Weight management	phentermine-topiramate
Saxenda		liraglutide
Tasigna[1]	Ph+ CML	nilotinib hcl
Tracleer 32mg tablet for suspension[1]	PAH	bosentan
Vyvanse capsule	ADHD, Binge-eating disorder	lisdexamfetamine

1. Non-formulary drugs that meet the Tier 4 description will require a medical necessity exception to be covered at the Tier 4 share of cost; 2.Effective: 5/1/2026

Drugs removed from the formulary. These now require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage.

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Alternative(s)
Endari[1]	Sickle cell disease	Droxia
Linzess	Constipation	Trulance, lubiprostone
Myrbetriq	Overactive bladder, Neurogenic detrusor overactivity	oxybutynin, trospium, fesoterodine, solifenacin, tolterodine
Nyvepria[1]	Chemotherapy-induced neutropenia	Fulphila, Udenyca
Semglee	Diabetes	Tresiba
OneTouch brand blood glucose test strips	Diabetes	Accu-Chek brand blood glucose test strips
Spiriva HandiHaler	COPD	Spiriva Respimat, Incruse Ellipta
Avar 10%-5% cleanser		

Drugs removed from the formulary. These now require a formulary exception based on medical necessity for coverage.

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Alternative(s)
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 9%-4% liquid	Acne vulgaris, Acne rosacea, Seborrheic dermatitis	sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10-5% liquid, sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 8-4% suspension, sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10-2% liquid
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur wash 9%-4% liquid		
SulfaCleanse 8/4 8%-4% topical suspension		
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10%-4% pad		
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 9.8%-4.8% cream	Acne vulgaris, Acne rosacea, Seborrheic dermatitis	sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10-5% lotion, cream
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 9.8%-4.8% lotion		
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10%-2% cream		
Sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10%-5% topical suspension		
SSS 10-5 10%-5% foam	Acne vulgaris, Acne rosacea, Seborrheic dermatitis	sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10-5% lotion, cream; sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10-5% liquid, sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 8-4% suspension, sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur 10-2% liquid

1. Non-formulary drugs that meet the Tier 4 description will require a medical necessity exception to be covered at the Tier 4 share of cost.

5. Drugs excluded from coverage because there is a same or similar drug option available. Benefit limitations apply.

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Alternative(s)
Altoprev	CAD, Atherosclerosis, Hyperlipidemia	lovastatin, atorvastatin, fluvastatin capsule, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin
Epsolay	Acne rosacea	metronidazole 0.75% cream, gel & lotion, metronidazole 1% gel, azelaic acid 15% gel
halcinonide 0.1% topical solution (Halog)	Steroid-responsive dermatoses	fluocinonide 0.05% solution, betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% cream & ointment, TAC 0.5% cream & ointment
ala-scalp 2% lotion		hydrocortisone 2.5% lotion, fluocinolone acetonide 0.01% solution
hydrocortisone 2% lotion		
ibuprofen-famotidine (Duexis)	RA, OA	ibuprofen 800mg tablet, famotidine
Kristalose 10gm, 20gm powder packet	Constipation	lactulose 10gm/15ml oral solution

5. Drugs excluded from coverage because there is a same or similar drug option available. Benefit limitations apply.

Drug	FDA indication(s)	Alternative(s)
metformin hcl er tablet (Glumetza)	Type 2 diabetes	metformin 500mg er tab, metformin 750mg er tab (Glucophage XR)
omeprazole-sodium bicarbonate 40-1100mg capsule (Zegerid)	Ulcer, GERD	omeprazole 40mg dr capsule
Oracea	Acne rosacea	doxycycline 20mg tablet
Pirfenidone 534mg tablet	Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis	pirfenidone 267mg tablet or capsule
Soaanz	Edema	torsemide 20mg tablet