

Provider Bulletin



News and Information

Nov. 10, 2023

Pharmacy Formulary and Benefit Changes for 2024 Effective Jan. 1, 2024

This bulletin provides a summary of the 2024 UCare pharmacy formulary changes. Click the links below to view the documents related to **2024 UCare formularies**:

[UCare Individual and Family Plans](#)

[UCare Individual and Family Plans with M Health Fairview](#)

[UCare Medicare and EssentiaCare](#)

[UCare Medicare with M Health Fairview and North Memorial](#)

[UCare Medicare Your Choice Plans](#)

[UCare Medicare – Group](#)

[UCare Minnesota Senior Health Options \(MSHO\) and UCare Connect + Medicare](#)

[Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\): UCare Connect, MinnesotaCare, PMAP, Minnesota Senior Care Plus](#) (formulary is updated on the first of each month, 2024 formulary will be available January 1)

2024 Summary of Formulary Updates

The 2024 formulary changes noted below are considered high impact. This is not an all-inclusive list of 2024 updates.

Medicare-related updates:

Drug Name	Change for 2024	Alternatives to consider
SYMBICORT 160-4.5 MCG INHALER	Removal from formulary	budesonide-formoterol inhaler
Testosterone cypionate	Adding Prior Authorization	none
Omeprazole capsule	Tier 2 to tier 1	N/A Positive Change
Latanoprost solution 0.005%	Tier 2 to tier 1	N/A Positive Change
Meclizine tab	Tier 4 to tier 2	N/A Positive Change

IFP-related updates:

Drug Name	Change for 2024	Alternatives to consider
Descovy	Adding Prior Authorization (to determine if PREP vs non-PREP use)	Tenofovir-emtricitabine (no Prior Authorization)
Aspirin 325 mg	Removal from formulary	Aspirin 81 mg
Numerous scheduled or acute use drugs	No longer available as 90-day supply	

Medicaid-related updates:

UCare follows the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Preferred Drug List (PDL), and coverage of PDL drugs in 2024 will be reflective of the coverage decisions of DHS's Drug Formulary Committee.

Medicare Part D Vaccine Coverage

Continuing for 2024, adult Part D vaccines will be covered at no cost to the member, even if the deductible has not been paid. Adult Part D vaccines will be noted in the online formulary.

As a reminder, UCare denies claims for providers administering Part D vaccines in their clinics. The preferred method is to have Part D vaccinations provided at a pharmacy.

If the part D vaccination is provided at the clinic, UCare requests that providers submit the claim using an electronic claims adjudication portal called [TransactRX](#). By submitting the claims electronically, patients are charged the same copay they would be charged at a retail pharmacy at the time of service, and providers are reimbursed for their cost in a timely manner. There is no need to submit a claim form to UCare. Additional information is available in the Claims & Payment section of the [Provider Manual](#).

Member and Provider Communication

In late October through November, UCare sent letters to members and providers impacted by formulary removals, added prior authorization and up-tiered drugs to facilitate drug therapy adjustments, if appropriate, prior to the next calendar year. The goal of the 2024 changes is to enhance the safe use of medications and offer the most clinically and cost-effective therapy for UCare members.

Prior authorization for a 2024 formulary change may be submitted beginning Jan. 1, 2024.

Questions?

Providers with questions are encouraged to:

- Visit the UCare.org [Provider Pharmacy page](#) for 2024 pharmacy information or ucare.org/providers.
- Watch for additional Provider Bulletins:
 - UCare Selects Navitus Health Solutions as New Pharmacy Benefit Manager for 2024
 - Medical Benefit Drug Prior Authorization for 2024 and Preferred Product Step Therapy Information
- Call UCare's Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 toll free.