

# Provider Bulletin

## News and Information



Oct. 31, 2024

### Pharmacy formulary and benefit changes for 2025

The 2025 Ucare formularies and other related documents are now available on [Ucare.org](https://Ucare.org) (linked below). The formularies are subject to change throughout the year and are updated on the first of each month.

[Ucare Individual and Family Plans](#)

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

[Ucare Individual and Family Plans Easy Compare Plans](#)

[Ucare Medicare Plans](#)

[EssentiaCare Plans](#)

[Ucare Medicare Your Choice Plans](#)

[Ucare Medicare Group Plans](#)

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

[Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\): Ucare Connect, MinnesotaCare, PMAP, Minnesota Senior Care Plus Plans](#)

### Summary of 2025 formulary and benefit changes

#### Ucare Medicare Plans

Higher impact formulary changes (not an all-inclusive list):

Drug	Change for 2025	Alternatives to consider
Albuterol Sulfate HFA (Prasco authorized generic)	Removal of a single NDC	Ventolin and other non-Prasco Albuterol HFA NDCs (can be substituted at the pharmacy)
Ondansetron ODT	Going from Tier 1 to Tier 2	Ondansetron tablet
Restasis	Formulary removal (Ucare Medicare, EssentiaCare, Group, MSHO and Connect + Medicare only)	Cyclosporine Emulsion (generic for Restasis) and Xiidra
Invokana	Formulary removal	Jardiance, Farxiga
Humira	Formulary removal	Hadlima, Simlandi

New for 2025:

- Medicare members can opt into the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan for drugs that meet the cost threshold. More information is available [here](#).

Reminders:

- Members are encouraged to get their Part D vaccines at an in-network pharmacy. Part D vaccines administered in the clinic and submitted on a medical claim will be denied, and members will need to submit a Direct Member Reimbursement (DMR) request to Navitus.
- Drugs used for weight loss are excluded from coverage under Medicare Part D per section 1927(d)(2) of the Social Security Act. This includes weight loss drugs used for a non-cosmetic purpose (i.e., morbid obesity).

## UCare Individual and Family Plans

Higher impact formulary changes (not an all-inclusive list):

Drug	Change for 2025	Alternatives to consider
Humira	Formulary removal	Hadlima, Simlandi and Adalimumab-aaty
Spiriva	Formulary removal	Incruse Ellipta
Victoza	Formulary removal	Bydureon Bcise, Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus and Trulicity

New for 2025:

- New standard 4 tier plans (Easy Compare Plans) are going live on Jan. 1, 2025.
- If a member receives manufacturer assistance for a prescription drug (such as copay assistance and coupons), this assistance will count toward plan deductible and out-of-pocket limit in 2025.
- Members will pay no more than \$25 for each 30-day supply of formulary prescription drugs that are used to treat a chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma and allergies requiring the use of epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens). This benefit applies in and after deductible for copay plans versus after deductible for HSA and catastrophic plans.
- Members will pay no more than \$50 per month for durable medical equipment used to treat a chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma and allergies requiring the use of an EpiPen. This benefit applies in and after deductible for copay plans vs. after deductible for HSA and catastrophic plans.

Reminders:

- When a non-formulary drug is approved for coverage, it will take a Tier 4 co-insurance.
- Tier exception requests for a lower cost sharing will not be granted.
- Certain cancer drugs will be managed by a "split fill program" at Fairview Specialty Pharmacy. Within the first 90 days of treatment (up to six fills), certain oral oncology drugs are limited to a 14- or 15-day supply per fill depending on package size. Drugs included in this limitation are noted in the formulary with "SF".
- Members will pay no more than \$25 for each 30-day supply of insulin covered on the formulary (applies to copay plans and HSA plans).

## UCare Medicaid Plans

UCare follows the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Preferred Drug List (PDL). Coverage of PDL drugs for 2025 will be determined by DHS' Drug Formulary Committee.

## Member and provider formulary change communications

UCare mailed postcards or letters to members affected by changes to the 2025 formularies. The postcards or letters list the drug impacted, the type of change and any formulary alternative(s). Letters also were sent to the member's provider with the same information.

## Authorization requests

- Formulary exception, prior authorization and tier exception requests for 2025 can be submitted on or after January 1.
- Prior authorizations that have an expiration date past Dec. 31, 2024, will continue to be valid into 2025 if the member stays in a plan with the same formulary, except for Humira. Current prior authorizations for Humira will be termed for Medicare and Individual and Family Plans members and will transfer to Hadlima and Simlandi for Medicare and Hadlima, Simlandi and Adalimumab-aaty for Individual and Family Plans.

- Medical Drug Authorization requests will continue to be reviewed by Care Continuum for **in-network** providers and by UCare for **out-of-network** providers. Medical Injectable Drug Prior Authorization Resources can be found on the [Pharmacy page](#) of the Provider website.

## Questions?

- Visit UCare's [Provider Pharmacy page](#) for 2025 pharmacy information or [ucare.org/providers](https://ucare.org/providers) for other information.
- Call UCare's Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 toll free.