



## **How to use Healthy Blue's Preferred Drug List (PDL)**

Healthy Blue's PDL is a list of preferred drugs we pay for under your pharmacy benefit. Healthy Blue chose these medicines for their quality and effectiveness, so we ask doctors to prescribe drugs on our PDL first if they are able to.

If a drug isn't on the PDL, we may still pay for it, but it will need prior authorization (preapproval) for us to do so. Your doctor will need to make a prior authorization request and send it to Healthy Blue before you can fill the prescription. To learn more, please read the prior authorization section below.

Healthy Blue revises the PDL often and can change it without prior notice, but usually we'll let you know about changes if you're taking a drug on the PDL. To view the most recent version of the PDL, make sure you're accessing the digital PDL at <https://www.myhealthybluelo.com/la/benefits/pharmacy-benefits.html>.

### **Brand name versus generics**

A brand-name drug is one that the original drug maker created, patented and marketed. Until the patent expires, no one else can make that same brand-name drug.

A generic drug has the same active ingredients as its brand-name equal. Generics can be made after the original patent expires. They are the same as the brand-name drug in dosage, strength and form but may differ from their brand name equals in color and/or shape. Both brand names and generics have to meet the same strict Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards.

### **Quantity supply limit**

Quantity supply limit is the greatest amount of a drug that a pharmacy can give out at a given time. Healthy Blue has a prior authorization program that follows FDA-approved dosing guidelines. If a prescriber feels that a quantity supply greater than the Quantity Supply Limit is medically necessary, the prescriber has to send in a written prior authorization request to confirm the medical reason for exceeding the recommended dosage.

### **Dose optimization**

The dose optimization program looks for cases where patients use many pills per day. It encourages the best dose. Sometimes, this may be a single daily dose. We will turn down claims sent with the dose amount above the set limit without prior authorization.

### **Prior authorization**

Prior authorization is preapproval needed from a doctor in order to get drugs that aren't on the PDL or dose amounts above the quantity supply limit. This supports the right use of medicines.

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Drugs that need prior authorization can be part of a step therapy treatment plan. This means you must have tried a preferred drug before getting a nonpreferred drug. They can have lower cost choices. Drugs that are also part of the program:

- Can have high side effect potential
- Are those that should be kept for specific FDA use
- Are those that have a high misuse or abuse potential

Brand-name drugs with an FDA-approved generic equal available will need written preapproval (prior authorization) for us to pay for them. This is to support the use of the right generic alternatives as first-line treatments when medically suitable.

**Have questions? We're a call away.**

If you have questions about Healthy Blue's PDL, just call **Member Services** at **1-844-521-6941 (TTY 711)** Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for more information.

Medicine use must always meet FDA-approved standards and Healthy Blue guidelines. If a medicine needs prior authorization, prescribers must complete and send prior authorization requests to Healthy Blue. Your doctor can call **Provider Services** at **1-844-521-6942** or **fax the form to 1-844-864-7865**.

**KEY:**

In each class, drugs are alphabetically listed by either brand or generic name.

**BRAND NAME DRUGS:** uppercase in bold type

generic drug: lowercase in plain type

OTC: over-the-counter medication available with a prescription  
*Prescribers, please indicate OTC on the prescription.*

PA: prior authorization required  
*Prior authorization is the process of obtaining approval of benefits before certain prescriptions may be filled.*

AL: age limit restrictions

QL: quantity limits  
*Certain prescription medications have specific quantity limits per prescription or per month.*

DO: Dose Optimization Program

GR: gender restriction

ST: step therapy required