

Step Therapy requirements for Medicare outpatient (Part B) medications

Medicare coverage for outpatient (Part B) drugs is outlined in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Pub. 100-2), Chapter 15, §50 Drugs and Biologicals. In addition, National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) and Articles may exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. Step Therapy will be required for the medications listed in the table below effective 1/1/2026, provided the following are met for the requested drug:

- Meets the definition of a Medicare Part B medication.
- New for the patient, as defined by no use in the last 365 days.
- Proposed use of the requested and alternative drug has been determined to be a medically accepted indication under Medicare rules.
- Dose, frequency and duration of use may not exceed the safety and efficacy data supporting the medically accepted indication.

Non-Preferred Drug	HCPCS Code	Preferred Drug	HCPCS Code	Comments
HP Acthar Cortrophin	J0801 J0802	Corticosteroids	multiple	
Remicade Infliximab Inflectra	J1745 J1745 Q5103	Renflexis Avsola	Q5104 Q5121	
Cinqair	J2786	Fasenra Nucala	J0517 J2182	For asthma indication only
Udenyca Ziextenzo Nyvepria Stimufend Fylmetra Rolvedon Ryzneuta	Q5111 Q5120 Q5122 Q5127 Q5130 J1449 J9361	Neulasta Fulphila	J2506 Q5108	Oncology use only
Neupogen Granix Nivestym Releuko Nypozi	J1442 J1447 Q5110 Q5125 Q5148	Zarxio	Q5101	

Non-Preferred Drug	HCPSC Code	Preferred Drug	HCPSC Code	
Herceptin Ontruzant Herzuma	J9355 Q5112 Q5113	Kanjinti Ogivri Trazimera	Q5117 Q5114 Q5116	
Herceptin Hylecta	J9356	Kanjinti Ogivri Trazimera	Q5117 Q5114 Q5116	
Rituxan/ Riabni	J9312/ Q5123	Truxima Ruxience	Q5115 Q5119	
Rituxan Hyleca	J9311	Truxima Ruxience	Q5115 Q5119	
Beovu	J0179	Avastin - Ophthalmic	C9257, J3590	
Eylea Eylea HD Ahzantive Enzeevu Pavblu	J0178 J0177 Q5150 Q5149 Q5147	Avastin - Ophthalmic	C9257, J3590	
Lucentis Byooviz Cimerli	J2778/ Q5124/ Q5128	Avastin - Ophthalmic	C9257, J3590	
Vabysmo	J2777	Avastin - Ophthalmic	C9257, J3590	
Susvimo	J2779	Avastin - Ophthalmic	C9257, J3590	
Durolane/ Euflexxa/ Gelsyn-3/ Genvisc 850/ Hyalgan/ Hymovis/ Monovisc/ Orthovisc/ Supartz/ Sodium hyaluronate/ Triluron/ Trivisc/ Visco-3	J7318/ J7323/ J7328/ J7320/ J7321/ J7322/ J7327/ J7324/ J7321/ J7331/ J7332/ J7329/ J7321	Gel-One Synvisc Synvisc-One	J7326 J7325	
Actemra IV Tofidence IV	J3262 Q5135	Tyenne IV	Q5135	
Lemtrada	J0202	Generic glatiramer acetate	J1595	For MS only

Non-Preferred Drug	HCPCS Code	Preferred Drug	HCPCS Code	
Briumvi	J2329	Generic glatiramer acetate	J1595	
Ocrevus IV Ocrevus Zunnovo	J2350 J2351	Generic glatiramer acetate	J1595	
Tysabri Tyruko	J2323 Q5134	Generic glatiramer acetate	J1595	For MS only
Wezlana Pyzchiva Otulfi Imuldosa Steqemya Ustekinumab-aekn Ustekinumab-ttwe Ustekinumab-aaaz Ustekinumab-stba Ustekinumab	Q5138 Q9997 Q9999 Q5098 Q5099 Q9998 Q9997 Q9999 Q5099 J3358	Stelara Yesintek Selarsdi	J3358 Q5100 Q9998	
Rituxan Ruxience	J9312 Q5119	Truxima Riabni	Q5115 Q5123	
Prolia Jubbonti Bomyntra Ospomyv	J0897 Q5136 Q5158 Q5159	Stoboclo Bildyos	Q5157 J3590	
Xgeva Wyost Conexence Xbryk	J0897 Q5136 Q5158 Q5159	Osenvelt Bilprevda	Q5157 J3590	
Avastin Jobvene Alymsys Vegzelma	J9035 Q5160 Q5126 Q5129	Mvasi Zirabev	Q5107 Q5118	Oncology indications only

References

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health Plan Management System (HPMS), MA_Step_Therapy_HPMS_Memo_8_7_18; available at <http://www.cms.gov> - last checked August 31, 2018 and found under Medicare > Health Plans > Health Plans - General Information > Downloads.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, CMS Pub. 100-02, Chapter 15, Sec. 50 (Rev. 241, Feb. 2, 2018); available at <http://www.cms.gov> - last checked August 31, 2018 and found under Medicare > Regulations and Guidance > Manuals > Internet-Only Manuals (IOMs).
- Local Coverage Determination (LCD). Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services.
<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search/advanced-search.aspx>.
- National Coverage Determination (NCD). Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services.
<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search/advanced-search.aspx>.
- U.S. Food & Drug Administration. FDA Approved Drug Products.
<https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/>