

Transition Process for Non-Formulary Part D Covered Drugs

New AvMed Medicare Members who are prescribed Part D medications that are not on the Part D formulary or that are on the formulary but require prior authorization or step therapy may be provided with a transition fill of that medication. Current members may also be affected by changes in our formulary from one year to the next.

You may be eligible for a transition fill of your Part D medication if you are a new AvMed Medicare member within your first 90 days of enrollment, if you are a member residing in a Long Term Care (LTC) facility, or if you are a current member affected by formulary changes from one contract year to the next.

Members should talk to their doctors to determine whether it is possible to switch to a different drug that is covered on the formulary. During the period of time that members are talking with their doctors to determine the right course of action, we may provide a temporary supply of the non-formulary drug.

When a member goes to a network pharmacy and we provide a temporary supply of a drug that isn't on our formulary, or that has coverage restrictions or limits (but is otherwise considered a "Part D drug"). We will cover a 30-day supply (unless the prescription is written for fewer days). After we cover the temporary 30-day supply, we generally will not pay for these drugs as part of our transition policy again. We will provide you with a written notice after we cover your temporary supply. This notice will explain the steps you can take to request an exception to cover the non-formulary drug and how to work with your doctor to decide if you should switch to an appropriate drug that we cover.

If a new member is a resident of a long-term-care facility (like a nursing home), we will cover a temporary 31-day transition supply (unless the prescription is written for fewer days) with multiple refills as necessary, up to a 93 days supply during the first 90 days a new member is enrolled in our Plan. If the resident has been enrolled in our Plan for more than 90 days and needs a drug that isn't on our formulary or is subject to other restrictions, such as step therapy or dosage limits, we will cover a temporary 31-day emergency supply of that drug (unless the prescription is for fewer days) while the new member pursues a prior authorization or formulary exception.

Sometimes a member may experience a change in treatment settings. For example, you may enter a long-term care facility following discharge from the hospital or you may be discharged from a long-term care facility and return to the community. Admission or discharge from a long-term care facility means you may not have access to the remainder of your previously filled prescription. We will take the necessary steps to be sure you are able to get a refill upon your admission or discharge.

After your one-time fill, you can ask Member Services if we cover another drug to treat your medical condition. If we cover another drug, you can ask your doctor if this drug is an option for your treatment. You can also file a request for an exception to our formulary. See EOC, Section 5 under “What is an exception?” to learn more about how to request an exception.

In some cases, we will contact you if you are taking a drug that is not on our formulary. We can give you the names of covered drugs that may be used to treat similar conditions so you can ask your doctor if any of these drugs are an option for your treatment.

AvMed may assist you by contacting your doctor to discuss the drugs that are on our formulary. Your doctor can decide if the non-covered drug you are taking can be changed to one that is covered. If your doctor determines that your medication can be changed, we will work with them to make this transition as simple as possible.

Please note that our transition policy applies only to those drugs that are “Part D drugs” and bought at a network pharmacy. The transition policy can’t be used to buy a non-Part D drug or a drug out of network, unless you qualify for out of network access. See EOC, Section 10 for information about non-Part D drugs.