

State Employee Health Benefits Program
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DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Secretary
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TO: State of Kansas HR Contacts

DATE: October 27, 2020

RE: CVS/Caremark Changes to Preferred Drug List

As part of our ongoing efforts to share important updates to our state benefits, we would like to notify you of a quarterly update to the CVS/Caremark preferred drug list, also known as the formulary. This review and update is conducted quarterly to reflect any new drugs on the market, as well as the safety and effectiveness of the included drugs, and to ensure members and the state are receiving the best value.

With the new formulary updates, 1,006 of the approximately 83,000 covered members will be contacted regarding the formulary changes effective January 1, 2021. These members will be given a 60-day written notification of the change. In addition, RxSavings Solutions will reach out to impacted members to offer assistance in the transition from one prescription to another. Attached to this email is a sample notification letter for your reference.

Should you or a member have any questions, please contact the State Employee Health Plan at SEHPBenefits@ks.gov.

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding formulary changes.

What is a formulary?

A formulary is the list of preferred medications (both generic and name brand) available to members with the lowest available cost share. The Formulary list of preferred drugs offers members an opportunity to access drugs at the lowest possible out-of-pocket cost. The formulary list of preferred medications is developed by a pharmaceutical and therapeutics team within CVS/Caremark comprised of pharmacists and physicians from various medical specialties. This committee reviews new and existing medications and selects

drugs for the formulary based on safety and how well they work. The committee then selects the drugs in each therapeutic class to be a part of the formulary.

Why does the formulary change?

The list of preferred medications is reviewed quarterly by the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics committee, and updates are made based on the above criteria or when prescribing practices provide a more cost-effective outcome for the member.

Which members are impacted by the formulary change?

Due to privacy requirements, the SEHP does not know the specific individuals impacted by the formulary change. Caremark will be issuing the communication directly to each individual impacted by this change, and Rx Savings Solutions will also be available to assist each individual with the transition to the new formulary medicine.

How will members be notified if the drug they are using is changing from the formulary?

Members who are currently taking a prescription that is changing from formulary (preferred) to non-formulary (non-preferred) will be notified by CVS/Caremark through a mailed letter approximately 60 days before the change occurs. The letter will provide the notification of the change, the list of drug alternatives available to the member on the formulary (preferred) list. The notice will arrive in time for members to discuss the change with their physician if they wish to do so.

Where will I find the list of formulary (preferred) drugs for our plan?

The preferred drug list can be found on our website at <https://healthbenefitsprogram.ks.gov/sehp/vendors/CVS>. Registered members may access it by logging in to the Caremark.com site to view or call CVS/Caremark directly at 1-800-294-6324. This list is updated quarterly.

As always, we appreciate your support of the SEHP. You may contact us with your questions by emailing the Benefits Box at SEHPBenefits@ks.gov.