

January Pharmacy Newsletter



PREFERRED DRUG LIST UPDATES

• Integrated (Title 19/21 SMI) and ACC:

Additions:

- Anusol-HC Cream 2.5%
- Calc Acetate Tab 667mg
- Clobetasol Gel 0.05% (Quantity Level Limit)
- Derma-Smoothe/FS Oil 0.01% Body
- Derma-Smoothe/FS Oil 0.01% Scalp
- Eszopiclone Tab 1mg, 2 mg and 3 mg (Age Limit, Quantity Level Limit)
- Imitrex Spr 5 mg/ACT and 20mg/ACT
- Metoprolol Tab 37.5mg
- Sevelamer Tab 800mg
- Zomig Spr 2.5mg and 5 mg (Quantity Level Limit)

Removals:

- Calc Acetate Tab 668mg
- Clobetasol Lot 0.05%
- Fluocinolone Acet Oil 0.01% Body
- Fluocinolone Acet Oil 0.01% Sc
- Nadolol Tab 20mg, 40 mg and 80 mg
- Nadolol/Bend Tab 40-5mg
- Renagel Tab 400 mg and 800mg
- Renvela Tab 800mg
- Scalpicin Sol 1%
- Sumatriptan Inj 6mg/0.5
- Sumatriptan Spr 5 mg/Act and 20mg/Act
- Verapamil Cap 360mg Sr

• Behavioral Health (Title 19/21 Non-SMI & Non-Title 19/21)

Additions:

- Eszopiclone Tab 1mg, 2mg and 3 mg (Age Limit, Quantity Level Limit)

Removals:

- Nadolol Tab 20mg, 40mg and 80 mg

Other Updates:

- None

** Drugs that are not on the formulary may be available via PA (prior authorization) **

- For the complete preferred drug lists, please refer to the Mercy Care websites below
 - RBHA: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy>
 - ACC: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/completecure-forproviders/pharmacy>

Pharmacy Network Changes

Applicable to: Mercy Care Complete Care, Mercy Care RBHA, Mercy Care Long Term Care and Mercy Care DD

Mercy Care is implementing changes to the retail and specialty pharmacy networks for Mercy Care's Medicaid lines of business.

Effective **February 3, 2020**, Walgreens Pharmacy will no longer be part of the Mercy Care Pharmacy network. Mercy Care will also require certain specialty medications on the Specialty Drug List to be filled at CVS Specialty pharmacies or St. Joseph's McAuley Pharmacy.

Mercy Care will begin notifying members via letters and IVR phone calls starting in late December and early January. CVS Specialty Pharmacy will be contacting members via telephone starting 5-7 days after the letters are sent to facilitate the specialty prescription transfer process. Members can contact Member Services or work with their Care Manager to assist in finding an in-network pharmacy and transferring their prescriptions. Members can also contact in network pharmacies to initiate prescription transfers.

Important note: This change *only* impacts members who are filling their medications using their Mercy Care **Medicaid** plan coverage. This **does not** impact members utilizing the CRISIS benefit. This also **does not** impact members that have other health insurance as primary including Medicare Part D.

FDA Warns About Serious Breathing Problems with Seizure and Nerve Pain Medicines Gabapentin (Neurontin, Gralise, Horizant) and Pregabalin (Lyrica, Lyrica CR) in Patients with Respiratory Risk Factors

December 19, 2019 -- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning that serious breathing difficulties may occur in patients using [gabapentin \(Neurontin, Gralise, Horizant\)](#) or [pregabalin \(Lyrica, Lyrica CR\)](#) who have respiratory risk factors. These include the use of opioid pain medicines and other drugs that depress the central nervous system, and conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) that reduce lung function. The elderly are also at higher risk.

Gabapentin and pregabalin are FDA-approved for a variety of conditions, including seizures, nerve pain, and restless legs syndrome.

FDA evaluation shows that the use of these medicines, often referred to as gabapentinoids, has been growing for prescribed medical use, as well as misuse and abuse. Gabapentinoids are often being combined with CNS depressants, which increases the risk of respiratory depression. CNS depressants include opioids, anti-anxiety medicines, antidepressants, and antihistamines. There is less evidence supporting the risk of serious breathing difficulties in healthy individuals taking gabapentinoids alone.

References:

1. <https://www.drugs.com/fda/fda-warns-serious-breathing-problems-seizure-nerve-pain-medicines-gabapentin-neurontin-gralise-14336.html>

This newsletter is brought to you by the Mercy Care Pharmacy Team. For questions, please email Fanny A Musto (MustoF@mercycares.org), Alisha D Sellers (SellersA@mercycares.org) or Denise Volkov (VolkovD@mercycares.org)