

**Bulletin for Pacificare Members:
Getting Pre-Authorization for Your Non-Formulary Prescriptions**

In our previous Pacificare HMO plan, we had a 3-tiered Schedule for Prescription Benefits. In this, we had a price for generics, a price for formulary medications and a price for non-formulary medications.

In our current Pacificare HMO plan, we have a 2-tiered Schedule for Prescription Benefits. In this, we have a price for generics and a price for formulary medications. Non-formulary prescriptions are not covered unless pre-authorized by your physician.

According to the Pacificare HMO Pharmacy Schedule of Benefits, Non-formulary drugs that are not otherwise excluded from coverage may be preauthorized in the following instances: (LEA has bolded key points for your ease)

- **No Formulary alternative is appropriate** and the drug is Medically Necessary for patient care, as determined by PacifiCare and consistent with professional practice.
- The **Formulary alternative has failed** after a therapeutic trial. Your participating Physician will be asked to provide a copy of the medical chart notes specifically stating treatment failure with the Formulary alternative.
- The **Formulary alternative is not appropriate** as determined by a review of Physician chart notes.
- **You have been under treatment and remain stable on a non-Formulary prescription drug previously approved by PacifiCare** that is not excluded from coverage. Furthermore, switching to a Formulary drug is medically inappropriate.
- **You experience typical allergic reaction or established adverse reaction** relating to the pharmacological properties of the Formulary drug. This reaction must be attributed to formulations or differences in the absorption, distribution or elimination of a Formulary drug.
- **Your participating Physician provides evidence** in the form of documents, records or clinical trials which establishes **that use of the requested non-Formulary drug over the Formulary drug is Medically Necessary**, as determined by PacifiCare.

If you are prescribed a non-Formulary medication for acute treatment that requires immediate use upon hospital discharge, an urgent care or emergency room visit after normal business hours, you may receive a one-time authorization for coverage.

Now, how do you find out what medications are on the formulary?

1. Visit www.pacificare.com
2. Click on Member/Visitor in upper-left
3. Choose your state – “CA” in upper-left
4. Click on “Visit the Pharmacy” in lower-right
5. Click on “Formulary HMO/ POS” in upper-left
6. Type in the medication name in the box and click search.

- If you find your medication; it's on the formulary.
- If you don't find your medication or get a response of “Non-Formulary”, you'll need to get pre-authorization for it. Contact your Physician and ask him to request a pre-authorization from PacifiCare Rx Solutions. The doctor's office should have the phone number. It will take 2-5 days for the pre-authorization, so make sure to do it before you run out of your current maintenance medications.