

## Using medication the right way helps slash costs

As the pharmaceutical landscape evolves and prescription costs rise, you're looking for ways to manage pharmacy spend while keeping your members healthy. We're here for you. Optum Rx<sup>®</sup> offers utilization management strategies and programs that help support appropriate medication use and lower overall health care costs.

### Working together to boost safety and savings

At Optum Rx, we understand the challenges you face as you try to balance prescription benefit costs with providing members access to affordable, clinically proven medications. That's why we offer a full suite of utilization management strategies that work together to help ensure your members get clinically effective medications that also make the best use of their pharmacy benefits.



#### Prior authorization

Optum Rx recommends pre-approval for certain medications before they are covered. This process, known as prior authorization, makes sure the medications your members take are appropriate and effective. This helps keep pharmacy plan costs in check while making sure members get the right medications.



#### Step therapy

Step therapy requires members to try preferred medications as the first step in treatment before certain non-preferred medications are covered. Preferred medications, such as low-cost generics included in the program, are widely recognized as clinically equivalent to brand-name options. Step therapy can lower both client and member costs while still providing access to non-preferred medications.



#### Quantity limits

Quantity limits make sure your members get the dose that's right for them. Our committee of independent doctors and pharmacists meets regularly to review medications, recommend quantity limit guidelines and discuss coverage levels. Members get the best results from their medication therapy, while controlling overall health care costs.

## Utilization management programs

Utilization management programs are an effective strategy to promote clinical quality and maximize savings opportunities. We offer a variety of programs to meet specific client needs: comprehensive, focused and à la carte.

### The **comprehensive utilization management program**

incorporates our full suite of prior authorization and step therapy edits, which are layered on to the Select or Premium formularies. This solution is designed for clients who want to aggressively manage their pharmacy benefit, ensure appropriate medication use and enjoy plan paid savings and rebate potential. The program is also available to clients with open benefit design and custom formularies.

The **focused utilization management program** includes a dedicated suite of bundles with specifically contracted edits layered on to the Select formulary to increase savings opportunities.

This strategy is a good choice for clients looking for a less restrictive pharmacy benefit that minimizes member disruption with the same rebate savings as the comprehensive utilization management program, when all four bundles are implemented. It is also available to clients with open benefit design and custom formularies.

### **Flexibility and choice**

Choose from two options:

#### **1. One to four bundles for a higher-controlled plan design**

- Diabetes Bundle
- Specialty Bundle
- Respiratory Bundle
- Miscellaneous Bundle

#### **2. All four bundles for the greatest value**

The **à la carte utilization management program** lets you pick and choose prior authorization, step therapy and quantity limit edits across multiple drug classes within the comprehensive utilization management program. This approach is designed to meet individual client needs based on unique drug trending and market dynamics. The program offers flexibility and additional plan paid savings but does not include rebate potential.

## Better outcomes, more savings

Our utilization management programs support clinical decisions focused on healthier members and result in plan savings that continue to grow. If you don't have utilization management programs currently and want to maximize savings, the Select formulary can be combined with either the focused utilization management program (all four bundles) or the comprehensive utilization management program.

---

### Strengthen your clinical program strategy

To learn more about our utilization management strategies, contact your Optum Rx representative or send an email to [optumrx@optum.com](mailto:optumrx@optum.com).

Optum Rx is a pharmacy care services company helping clients and more than 60 million members achieve better health outcomes and lower overall costs through innovative prescription drug benefits services. All Optum trademarks and logos are owned by Optum, Inc., in the U.S. and other jurisdictions. All other brand or product names are trademarks or registered marks of their respective owners. ©2022 Optum, Inc. All rights reserved. ORX8468-FMS\_220315

