

Louisiana Healthcare Connections

Appropriate Use and Safety Edits



The health and safety of our members is a priority for Louisiana Healthcare Connections. One of the ways we address patient safety is through point-of sale (POS) edits at the time a prescription is processed at the pharmacy. These edits are based on Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommendations and promote safe and effective medication utilization of our members.

Quantity Limits: Restrictions on claim quantity per day implemented to prevent doses above the FDA approved guidelines. Multiple medications within different drug classes have quantity limit requirements.

Lower Age Limits: Restrictions on age implemented to prevent children below the FDA approved age of receiving medications off-label. Current drug classes with lower age limits include, but are not limited to:

- Atypical Antipsychotics
- Benzodiazepines
- Long-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants & Non-Stimulants)
- Migraine Rescue Medications (Triptans and Non-Triptans)
- Sedative-Hypnotics
- Short-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants only)

Upper Age Limits: Restrictions on age implemented to prevent adults from receiving medications commonly indicated for pediatric use only (without proper documentation of diagnosis). Current drug classes with upper age limits include, but are not limited to:

- Long-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants and Non-Stimulants)
- Short-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants only)

Duplicate Therapy Edits: Restrictions on claims implemented to prevent members from receiving excessive medication regimens within the same (or similar) drug classes. Current drug classes with duplicate therapy edits include, but are not limited to:

- ACE Inhibitor/Angiotensin Receptor Blockers
- Alpha Agonists (Pediatrics only)
- Antidepressants (all classes)
- Atypical Antipsychotics
- Benzodiazepines
- Diabetic Medications (Sulfonylurea/Meglitinides)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus Medications
- Long-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants & Non-Stimulants)
- Narcotic Agents
- Sedative-Hypnotics
- Selective Serotonin Receptor Inhibitors and Serotonin Norepinephrine Receptor Inhibitors
- Short-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants only)
- Tricyclic Antidepressants

For specific drug quantity limits and age limits please refer to the Louisiana Healthcare Connections Preferred Drug List (PDL).

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Dose Consolidation Edits: Restrictions on claims implemented to prevent members from receiving multiple strengths of the same medication. Current drug classes with dose consolidation edits include:

- Atypical Antipsychotics
- Long-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants and Non Stimulants)
- Selective Serotonin Receptor Inhibitors and Serotonin Norepinephrine Receptor Inhibitors
- Short-Acting ADHD Medications (Stimulants only)

Step Therapy Edits: Restrictions on claims implemented to steer members toward the preferred medication in the drug class. Current drug classes with step therapy restrictions include, but are not limited to:

- Acne (Oral Isotretinoin)
- Antidepressant Agents
- Angiotensin Receptor Blockers
- Antibiotics (Cephalosporins)
- Aromatase Inhibitors
- Atypical Antipsychotics
- HMG Co-A Reductase Inhibitors
- Leukotriene Modifiers
- Muscle Relaxants
- Nasal Steroids
- Non-Sedating Antihistamines
- Ophthalmic Antihistamines
- Sedative-Hypnotics

Teratogenic Edits: Restrictions on claims implemented to prevent female members from receiving potentially harmful medications prior to confirmation of pregnancy status. Multiple medications within different drug classes have teratogenic requirements.

Safety Edits: Restrictions on claims implemented to prevent members from receiving combination drug regimens that are contraindicated or have been deemed toxic and potentially life threatening.

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Medications
- Low Dose Seroquel
- Suboxone/Subutex and Narcotics

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Appropriate Use and Safety Edits

Duplicate Therapy Edit Medications		
Therapeutic Category	PDL and Non-PDL Drug Listing	Limitations
Atypical Antipsychotics	PDL: Abilify, Clozaril (clozapine), Geodon (ziprasidone), Risperdal (risperidone), Seroquel (quetiapine), Seroquel-XR, Zyprexa (olanzapine)	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Abilify Discmelt, Fanapt, Fazacllo, Invega, Invega Sustenna, Latuda, Risperdal Consta, Saphris, Zyprexa Zydis (olanzapine)	
Long-Acting ADHD Medications	PDL: Adderall XR (amphetamine-dextroamphetamine ER), Concerta (methylphenidate ER), Dexedrine SR (dextroamphetamine ER), Metadate CD (methylphenidate CR), Ritalin SR (methylphenidate ER)	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Daytrana, Focalin XR, Ritalin LA (methylphenidate ER), Strattera, Vyvanse	
Short-Acting ADHD Medications	PDL: Adderall (amphetamine-dextroamphetamine), Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine), Methylin/Ritalin (methylphenidate)	Restricted to polytherapy (two drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Focalin (dexmethylphenidate)	
Alpha Agonists (for ADHD)	PDL: Catapres (clonidine), Tenex (guanfacine)	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen) Applies only to age < 18
	Non-PDL: Intuniv, Kapvay	
SSRIs & SNRIs	PDL: Celexa (citalopram), Effexor (venlafaxine), Effexor XR (venlafaxine ER), Luvox (fluvoxamine), Paxil (paroxetine), Paxil CR (paroxetine ER), Prozac (fluoxetine), Zoloft (sertraline)	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Cymbalta, Lexapro (escitalopram), Luvox CR, Pexeva, Pristiq	
Tricyclic Antidepressants	PDL: Anafranil (clomipramine), Elavil (amitriptyline), Norpramin (desipramine), Pamelor (nortriptyline), Sinequan (doxepin), Tofranil (imipramine)	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Surmontil (trimipramine), Vivactil (protriptyline)	
Benzodiazepines	PDL: Ativan (lorazepam), Dalmane (flurazepam), Halcion (triazolam), Klonopin (clonazepam), Librium (chlordiazepoxide), Restoril (temazepam), Serax (oxazepam), Tranxene (clorazepate), Valium (diazepam), Xanax (alprazolam)	Restricted to polytherapy (two drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Prosom (estazolam)	
Sedative-Hypnotics	PDL: Ambien (zolpidem), Chloral Hydrate, Dalmane (flurazepam), Halcion (triazolam), Restoril (temazepam), Sonata (zaleplon).	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Ambien CR (zolpidem ER), Doral, Prosom (estazolam), Lunesta, Rozerem, Seconal	
HIV Medications	Please refer to the safety edit section (NOTE: All HIV medications are PDL.)	Restricted to one medication per group (per regimen)
ACEI/ARB Medication	PDL: Accupril (quinapril), Altace (ramipril), Capoten (captopril), Cozaar (losartan), Diovan, Lotensin (benazepril), Mavik (trandolapril), Monopril (fosinopril), Vasotec (enalapril), Zestril (lisinopril), plus any of the following drugs in combination with HCTZ	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Aceon (perindopril), Atacand, Avapro (irbesartan), Benicar, Edarbi, Micardis, Teveten, Univasc (moexipril), plus any of the following drugs in combination with HCTZ or other cardiovascular medications	
Diabetic Medications (sulfonylureas/meglitinides)	PDL: Amaryl (glimepiride), Diabeta (glyburide), Glucotrol (glipizide), Glucotrol XL (glipizide SR), Glucovance (glyburide-metformin), Glynase (glyburide micronized), Metaglip (glipizide-metformin)	Restricted to monotherapy (one drug regimen)
	Non-PDL: Avandaryl, Diabinese (chlorpropamide), Duetact, Dymelor (acetohexamide), Orinase (tolbutamide), Prandimet, Prandin, Starlix (nateglinide), Tolinase (tolazamide)	

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Dose Consolidation Edit Medications		
Therapeutic Category	PDL and Non-PDL Drug Listing	Limitations
Atypical Antipsychotics	<u>PDL</u> : Abilify, Zyprexa (olanzapine)	Restricted to one strength per drug (per regimen)
	<u>Non-PDL</u> : Abilify Discmelt, Fanapt, Invega, Saphris, Zyprexa Zydis (olanzapine)	
Long-Acting ADHD Medications	<u>PDL</u> : Adderall XR (amphetamine-dextroamphetamine ER), Concerta (methylphenidate ER), Dexedrine SR (dextroamphetamine ER), Metadate CD (methylphenidate CR), Ritalin SR (methylphenidate ER)	Restricted to one strength per drug (per regimen)
	<u>Non-PDL</u> : Daytrana, Focalin XR, Ritalin LA (methylphenidate ER), Strattera, Vyvanse	
Short-Acting ADHD Medications	<u>PDL</u> : Adderall (amphetamine-dextroamphetamine), Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine), Methylin/Ritalin (methylphenidate)	Restricted to one strength per drug (per regimen)
	<u>Non-PDL</u> : Focalin (dexmethylphenidate)	
SSRIs & SNRIs	<u>PDL</u> : Celexa (citalopram), Luvox (fluvoxamine), Paxil (paroxetine), Paxil CR (paroxetine ER), Prozac (fluoxetine), Viibryd, Zoloft (sertraline)	Restricted to one strength per drug (per regimen)
	<u>Non-PDL</u> : Lexapro (escitalopram), Luvox CR, Pexeva, Pristiq	

Step Therapy Edit Medications		
Therapeutic Category	First Line Preferred Drug	Step Therapy Drug (second line preferred)
Acne (oral)	Oral Antibiotics (minocycline, etc) AND topical tretinoin (Retin-A etc)	Accutane, Amnesteem, Claravis, Sotret
Antidepressant Agents	Celexa (citalopram), Effexor (venlafaxine), Effexor XR (venlafaxine ER), Luvox (fluvoxamine), Paxil (paroxetine), Paxil CR (paroxetine ER), Prozac (fluoxetine), Effexor (venlafaxine), Effexor XR (venlafaxine XR), Wellbutrin (bupropion), Wellbutrin SR (bupropion SR), Wellbutrin XL (bupropion XL), Zoloft (sertraline)	Viibryd
Angiotensin Receptor Blockers	Cozaar (losartan)	Diovan
	Hyzaar (losartan-hctz)	Diovan-HCT
Antibiotics (Cephalosporin)	Amoxil (amoxicillin), Augmentin (amoxicillin-clavulanate), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Ceclor (cefaclor), Cefzil (cefprozil), Levaquin (levofloxacin), Zithromax (azithromycin)	Omnicef (cefdinir)
Aromatase Inhibitors	Arimidex (anastrozole)	Aromasin, Femara
Atypical Antipsychotics	Risperdal (risperidone)	Abilify, Clozaril (clozapine), Geodon (ziprasidone), Seroquel (quetiapine), Seroquel-XR, Zyprexa (olanzapine)
HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors	Mevacor (lovastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin), Zocor (simvastatin)	Lipitor (atorvastatin)
Leukotriene Modifiers (allergy)	Claritin (loratadine), Flonase (fluticasone), Zyrtec (cetirizine)	Singulair (montelukast)
Leukotriene Modifiers (asthma)	Advair, Flovent, Proair (albuterol), Pulmicort (budesonide), QVAR	Singulair (montelukast)
Muscle Relaxants	Lioresal (baclofen)	Zanaflex (tizanidine tablets)

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Step Therapy Edit Medications		
Therapeutic Category	First Line Preferred Drug	Step Therapy Drug (second line preferred)
Nasal Steroids	Flonase (fluticasone)	Nasonex, Nasacort AQ
Non-Sedating Antihistamines	Claritin (loratadine), Zyrtec (cetirizine)	Allegra (fexofenadine)
Ophthalmic Antihistamines	Opticrom (Cromolyn), Zaditor (Ketotifen)	Alomide, Alocril, Optivar
Sedative Hypnotics	Ambien (zolpidem)	Sonata (zaleplon)

Teratogenic Edit Programming Details		
Step	Question	Answer/Action
1.	Is member female?	Yes: Go to Step 2 No: Process claim
2.	Is member between 11 – 50 years of age?	Yes: Go to Step 3 No: Process claim
3.	Does the member have an active claim for contraception or hormone replacement therapy?	Yes: Process claim No: Go to Step 4
4.	Is the member pregnant? (Pharmacist to ask member at POS)	Yes: Go to Step 5 No: Process claim
5.	Is the drug labeled as pregnancy category X?	Yes: Deny claim No: Go to Step 6
6.	Is the drug labeled as pregnancy category D (risk outweighs benefit)?	Yes: Deny claim No: Go to Step 7
7.	Is the drug labeled as pregnancy category D (benefits may outweigh risk)?	Yes: Go to Step 8 No: Process claim
8.	Call prescriber. Does benefit outweigh risks?	Yes: Process claim No: Deny claim

Teratogenic Edit Medications	
Pregnancy Category	Therapeutic Category
Pregnancy Category X	5-Alpha Reductase Inhibitors, Anabolic Steroids, Androgens, Anorexiant, Antineoplastics, Coumadin Anticoagulants, Endothelin Receptor Antagonists, Hepatitis Agents, HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors, Non-Barbiturate Hypnotics, Migraine Agents, Non-Steroidal Antiinflammatory, Progesterone Receptor Antagonists, Progestins, Prostaglandins, Retinoids, Stimulant Laxatives, Etc.
Pregnancy Category D (risk outweighs benefit)	ACE Inhibitors, Alkylating Agents, Aminoglycosides, Antiandrogens, Antiestrogens, Antineoplastics, Beta Blockers, Gout Agents, Mitotic Inhibitors, Potassium Sparing Diuretics, Sickle Cell Anemia Agents, Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, Smoking Deterrents, Tetracyclines, Thiazide & Thiazide Like Diuretics, Tricyclic Antidepressants, Etc.
Pregnancy Category D (benefits may outweigh risk)	Anticonvulsants, Antithyroid Agents, Antiretrovirals, Antispasmodics, Barbiturate Hypnotics, Benzodiazepines, Glucocorticoids, Hydantoins, Imidazole Antifungals, Immunosuppressives, Lithiums, Non-Barbiturate Hypnotics, Etc.

NOTE: These lists are not all inclusive of drugs in pregnancy category X and/or D drugs. Furthermore, not all drugs within the therapeutic categories listed above are categorized as pregnancy X and/or D.

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Safety Edit	
Edit	Rationale
HIV Medication Edit	Regimens deemed toxic or potentially life threatening are prevented from adjudicating concurrently (see table below for restricted regimens)
Low Dose Seroquel	Low dose Seroquel regimens (<150mg/day) are allowed for titration purposed only, as per FDA approved indications (adult restrictions only)
Suboxone/Subutex & Narcotics	Suboxone/Subutex regimens are prevented from adjudicating in members with active narcotic claims (Suboxone/Subutex are only approved for opiate withdrawal indications)

Safety Edit	
HIV Medications	
Group	Medications
1.	Atripla (efavirenz, emtricitabine, tenofovir), Emtriva (emtricitabine), Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir)
2.	Epzicom (abacavir, lamivudine), Ziagen (abacavir), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, zidovudine)
3.	Combivir (lamivudine, zidovudine), Epivir (lamivudine), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, zidovudine)
4.	Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir), Viread (tenofovir)
5.	Complera (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir)
6.	Reyataz (Atazanavir), Crixivan (Indinavir).
7.	Videx (didanosine), Zerit (stavudine)
8.	Emtriva (emtricitabine), Epivir (lamivudine)
9.	Zerit (stavudine), Retrovir (zidovudine)
10.	Videx (didanosine), Viread (tenofovir)
11.	Zerit (stavudine), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, zidovudine)
12.	Zerit (stavudine), Combivir (lamivudine, zidovudine)
13.	Atripla (efavirenz, emtricitabine, tenofovir), Videx (didanosine)
14.	Videx (didanosine), Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir)
15.	Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir), Epivir (lamivudine)
16.	Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir), Epzicom (abacavir, lamivudine)
17.	Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, zidovudine)
18.	Truvada (emtricitabine, tenofovir), Combivir (lamivudine, zidovudine)
19.	Atripla (efavirenz, emtricitabine, tenofovir), Epivir (lamivudine)
20.	Atripla (efavirenz, emtricitabine, tenofovir), Epzicom (abacavir, lamivudine)
21.	Atripla (efavirenz, emtricitabine, tenofovir), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, zidovudine)
22.	Atripla (efavirenz, emtricitabine, tenofovir), Combivir (lamivudine, zidovudine)
23.	Epzicom (abacavir, lamivudine), Emtriva (emtricitabine)
24.	Emtriva (emtricitabine), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, zidovudine)
25.	Combivir (lamivudine, zidovudine), Emtriva (emtricitabine)
26.	Rescriptor (Delavirdine), Sustiva (Efavirenz), INTELENCE (Etravirine), Viramune (Nevirapine), Atripla (Efavirenz, Emtricitabine, Tenofovir), Edurant (Rilpivirine)

All Louisiana Healthcare Connections covered products are listed in the PDL. For the most current PDL please contact Louisiana Healthcare Connections at 1-866-595-8133 (TTY/TDD 1-877-285-4514) or visit www.LouisianaHealthConnect.com.

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