

Medical Policy: INJECTABLE MEDICATION COVERAGE

Effective July 17, 2001

Reviewed/Revised: 8/2005, 11/1/11, 4/17/12, 5/27/14

Reviewed/No Updates: 1/28/13, 2/13/14, 2/12/15, 2/11/16,
2/9/17, 2/8/18, 2/14/19, 2/13/20, 2/11/21, 2/17/22, 2/2/23,
2/8/24, 2/20/25

INJECTABLE MEDICATION COVERAGE

Policy

VCHCP covers injectable medications when an appropriate oral alternative drug does not exist.

This coverage includes those medications intended to be self-administered.

The medication must be medically necessary and appropriate to the member's needs or condition.

All injectables except for Insulins, epinephrine, headache medications, medroxyprogesterone acetate and approved immunization products require prior authorization. Additionally, appropriate copay applies as defined by Plan's Pharmacy Benefit Structure.

Injectables Not Covered:

Experimental or investigational drugs or drugs that have not been proven safe and effective for a specific disease or approved for a mode of treatment by the FDA and/or the NIH are not covered.

NOTE: This provision does not exclude coverage of the "off label" use of otherwise FDA approved prescribed medications.

Drugs related to the treatment of non-covered services are not covered.

Certain classes of injectable medications are not covered:

1. Anabolic Steroids When Used for Athletic Performance Enhancement
2. Infertility Injectables, unless otherwise approved or required by regulation or covered by a specific benefit design-

Procedure:

A treatment authorization request (TAR) must be submitted to UR for approval by the UR physician or Medical Director.

Attachments: None

History:

Reviewers: Richard O. Ashby MD, QA Committee; Date: July 2001

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2/8/24, 2/20/25

Reviewed /Revised: C. Wilhelmy MD & L. Catapang RN; Date: Aug 2005

Committee Review: UM: August 8, 2005; QAC: August 23, 2005

Reviewed/Revised: Albert Reeves MD; Date: 11/1/11

Committee Review: UM Committee on 11/10/11 & QA on 11/22/11

Reviewed/No Updates: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 4/17/12

Committee Reviews: UM: May 10, 2012; QAC: May 22, 2012

Reviewed/No Updates: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 1/28/13

Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2013; QAC: February 26, 2013

Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2014; QAC: February 25, 2014

Reviewed/Updated: Catherine Sanders, MD

Committee Review: UM: May 8, 2014; QAC: May 27, 2014

Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 12, 2015; QAC: February 24, 2015

Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Catherine Sanders, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 11, 2016; QAC: February 23, 2016

Reviewed/Updated: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 9, 2017; QAC: February 28, 2017

Reviewed/Updated: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 8, 2018; QAC: February 27, 2018

Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2019; QAC: February 26, 2019

Reviewed/No Updates: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2020; QAC: February 25, 2020

Reviewed/No Updates: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 11, 2021; QAC: February 23, 2021

Reviewed/No Updates by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 17, 2022; QAC: February 22, 2022

Reviewed/No Updates by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 2, 2023; QAC: February 7, 2023

Reviewed/No Updates by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 8, 2024; QAC: February 27, 2024

Reviewed/Updated by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD

Committee Review: UM: February 20, 2025; QAC: February 25, 2025

References:

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1. U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. USP Dispensing Information. Volume I-- Drug Information for the Health Care Professional, 19th Ed. Englewood, CO: Micromedex, 1999.
2. Medical Economics, Inc. Physicians' Desk Reference, 54th Ed. Montvale, NJ: Medical Economics Data Production, 2000.
3. Mosby-Yearbook, Inc. Mosby's GenRx: The Complete Reference for Generic and Brand Drugs, 10th Ed. St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 2000.
4. American Hospital Formulary Service. AHFS Drug Information 2000. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, 2000.

Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
2/9/17	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review; updated to reflect addition of epinephrine, headache medications, medroxyprogesterone acetate and removal of Imitrex – as exceptions to injectables requiring prior authorization
2/8/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/14/19	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/13/20	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/11/21	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/17/22	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/2/23	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/8/24	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/20/25	Yes	Howard Taekman, MD and Robert Sterling, MD	Added “or required by regulation or covered by a specific benefit design” after Infertility Injectables,

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			<p>unless otherwise approved. Removed “Notes: All injectables except for Insulins, epinephrine, headache medications, medroxyprogesterone acetate and approved immunization products require prior authorization. Additionally, appropriate copay applies as defined by Plan’s Pharmacy Benefit Structure.”</p>
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