



Blue Cross Power Select HMO Prescription Drug Benefits

At Blue Cross of California, we know that prescription drugs are the fastest-rising item of your total health care benefits cost. Reasons for the spiraling costs of prescription drugs are varied: a general increase of prescription medication use, an aging population, research and development of new medications and the expense of direct to consumer advertising. With prescription drug costs increasing at twice the rate of medical care, we developed ways to contain costs so your copays remain affordable, while maintaining your access to safe, effective prescription drugs. Our Prescription Drug Program provides you with choice, flexibility, affordability and access to an extensive network of retail pharmacies.

Calendar Year Deductible

Before your plan pays any benefits, you are required to satisfy an annual deductible for brand-name drugs. The deductible does not apply to generic drugs or a brand name drug when no generic equivalent is available.

You must satisfy this deductible only once per calendar year. The deductible applies to all covered drugs, (except generic drugs or a brand name drug when no generic equivalent is available).

Once three members of the same family meet the deductible amount, other family members will not have to satisfy a deductible for the rest of that calendar year.

Getting a Prescription Filled at a Participating Pharmacy

To get a prescription filled, you need only take your prescription to a participating pharmacy and present your member ID card. The amount you pay for a covered prescription – your copay or coinsurance – will be determined by whether your calendar year deductible is satisfied, whether the drug is a brand-name or generic medication, whether the drug is a self injectable and whether it is a formulary or non-formulary medication.

If you have not yet satisfied this deductible at the time your prescription is filled, you will likely need to pay the entire cost of your prescription medication at the pharmacy and then submit a prescription drug claim form for reimbursement.

A **generic drug** is safe, pure and the same strength as a brand name drug. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees generic medications to make sure they meet the same standards for quality and strength as brand name medications. Typically, generic drugs cost less. In many situations, you have a choice of filling your prescription with a generic medication or a brand name medication.

A **brand name drug** is a prescription drug that has been patented and is made by only one manufacturer.

The formulary is a list of approximately 600 recommended brand and generic medications that are used to help your physician make prescribing decisions. The medications in the formulary have undergone extensive review for therapeutic value for a particular medical condition, safety and cost. Copies of our formulary are furnished to your providers and are available to you online at www.bluecrossca.com under the Pharmacy section. You or your provider may also contact our Pharmacy Customer Service at the toll-free number printed on your member ID card to find out if a drug is listed on the formulary.

The following chart illustrates the relation between drug type and your copay amount at a participating pharmacy:

Drug Type	Copay Amount
Generic	50% of drug negotiated rate up to \$10.00 (<i>deductible waived</i>)
Brand name formulary	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$25.00 (<i>when no generic equivalent available, deductible waived</i>)
Brand name non-formulary	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$40.00

Finding a Participating Pharmacy

Because our huge pharmacy network includes major drugstore chains plus a wide variety of independent pharmacies, it is easy for you to find a participating pharmacy. You can also find a participating pharmacy by going to our Web site at www.bluecrossca.com.

An Extensive Network

Besides saving you money, our extensive network of pharmacies offers you easy accessibility.

- In California there are over 5,100 retail pharmacies. This accounts for nearly 95% of retail pharmacies in the state, including all major chains.
- Nationwide there are more than 61,000 chain and independent pharmacies.

Using a Participating Pharmacy

You can substantially control the cost of your prescription drugs by using our extensive network of participating pharmacies. Participating pharmacies have agreed to charge a discounted price or “negotiated rate” and pass along this savings to you.

Using a Non-Participating Pharmacy

If you choose to fill your prescription at a non-participating pharmacy, your costs will increase. You will likely need to pay for the entire amount of the prescription and then submit a prescription drug claim form for reimbursement. The pharmacist must sign and complete the appropriate section of the claim form to ensure proper processing of the claim for reimbursement.

Members that submit claims from non-participating pharmacies are reimbursed based upon our **limited fee schedule**. The maximum in the fee schedule may be considerably less than what you paid for your medication. You are responsible for paying any difference between the cost of the drug and the limited fee schedule.

The following chart illustrates potential increased out-of-pocket expenses for going to a non-participating pharmacy:

	Out-of-pocket costs using a participating pharmacy	Out of pocket costs using a non-participating pharmacy
Pharmacy's normal charge for brand-name formulary drug	\$50.00	\$50.00
You are responsible for:	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$25.00 copay	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$25.00 copay plus 50% of the limited fee schedule plus any amounts exceeding the fee schedule
Total out-of-pocket expenses	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$25.00	Expense varies based on the cost of the medication

You may obtain a prescription drug claim form by calling Pharmacy Customer Service at the toll-free number printed on your member ID card or by going to our Web site at www.bluecrossca.com.

Submitting a Claim Form

Check to see that all sections of the claim form are completed and mail to:

WellPoint NextRx
P.O. Box 4165
Woodland Hills, CA 91365-4165

Mail Service Prescription Drug Program

If you take a prescription drug on a regular basis, you may want to take advantage of our mail service program. Ordering your medications by mail is convenient, saves time and depending on your plan design, may even save you money. Besides enjoying the convenience of home delivery, you will also receive a greater supply of medications. To fill a prescription through the mail, simply complete the Mail Service Prescription form. You may obtain the form by calling Customer Service, at the toll-free number listed on your ID card or by going to our Web site at www.bluecrossca.com.

Once you complete the form, simply mail it with your copay and prescription in the envelope attached to the Mail Service brochure.

Please note that not all medications are available through the Mail Service Program.

Out-of-State Prescription Benefits

Our national network of participating pharmacies is available to members when outside California. To find a participating pharmacy, a member can check our Web site or call the toll-free number printed on the ID card. When using a non-participating pharmacy outside of California, the member will follow the same procedures for using a non-participating pharmacy in California as outlined above.

Additional Features That are Part of your Plan

Prior authorization applies to a select pool of medications that are often a second line of therapy. To require prior authorization, a drug must meet specific criteria.

This criterion is based, among other things, on medical necessity, FDA-approved drug indications, targeted populations and the current availability of effective drug therapies. Prior authorization drugs are not covered unless you receive an approval from Blue Cross of California.

We distribute instructions on how to obtain prior authorization to physicians and pharmacies so that you may obtain prior authorization for required medications. You may call Pharmacy Customer Service, at the toll-free number printed on your member ID card, to receive a prior authorization form and/or list of medications requiring prior authorization.

If we don't approve a request for a drug that is not part of our prescription drug formulary, you or your physician can appeal the decision by calling us at the toll-free number printed on your member ID card. If you are not happy with the result, please see the section called How To Make A Complaint In Your Combined Evidence Of Coverage And Disclosure Form.

Supply limits are the proper FDA recommendations for prescription medication dosage coupled with our determination of specific quantity supply limits to prescription medications. Although our standard pharmacy plans offer a 30-day supply for medications at a retail pharmacy, the supply limit can vary based on the medication, dosage and usage prescribed by your physician. For example, the supply limit for antibiotics used to treat an infection (e.g., 14 pills to be taken twice a day for one week) is different than blood pressure medication taken on a routine basis (e.g., 120 pills to be taken twice a day for 60 days). By adhering to specified supply limits, members are assured of receiving the appropriate amount of medication.

Programs for Member's Special Health Needs

We recognize that some of our members have unique health care needs requiring special attention. That's why we developed programs exclusively for them. Our additional medical management programs work in synergy with our pharmacy drug program to help members better manage their health care on an ongoing basis.

Diabetic members can receive **free glucometers** so that they can effectively and conveniently monitor their glucose levels.

Seniors can better monitor their chronic diseases and multiple medications through our **seniors-at-risk program**. This program reduces the possibility of toxic drug interactions, and curtails distribution of medications that may adversely affect the senior's chronic condition.

Asthmatic members and their families can take advantage of our program to better control the frequency and severity of the disease.

Members who take multiple prescription medications can take advantage of our pharmacy utilization management programs that encourage the safe, effective distribution of prescription medications. We have a program that protects the welfare of members with multiple prescription medications by carefully monitoring their prescription therapy to help reduce the danger of toxic drug interaction.

For additional information regarding your prescription drug benefits, please call Pharmacy Customer Service at the toll-free number printed on your member ID card.

Please refer to your Combined Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form which explains your plan's Exclusions and Limitations as well as the full range of your covered services in detail.

Covered Services (outpatient prescriptions only)	Per Member Copay for Each Prescription or Refill
Calendar Year Deductible	\$100/member Maximum of three separate deductibles/family
Retail Pharmacy	
➤ Generic drugs	50% of drug negotiated rate up to \$10 (deductible waived)
➤ Brand name formulary drugs	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$25 (when no generic equivalent available; deductible waived)
➤ Brand name non-formulary drugs ¹	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$40
➤ Compound drugs	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$40
➤ Self-administered injectable drugs, except insulin	20% of drug negotiated rate (maximum \$100 copay)
Mail Service	
➤ Generic drugs	50% of drug negotiated rate, up to \$20 (deductible waived)
➤ Brand name formulary drugs	45% of drug negotiated rate, up to \$50 (when no generic equivalent available; deductible waived)
➤ Brand name non-formulary drugs ¹	45% of drug negotiated rate, up to \$80
➤ Self-administered injectable drugs, except insulin	20% of drug negotiated rate (maximum \$200 copay)
➤ Self-administered injectable drugs, except insulin	20% of prescription drug covered expense
Specialty Pharmacy Drugs (obtained through specialty pharmacy program)	
➤ Generic drugs	50% of drug negotiated rate up to \$10 (deductible waived)
➤ Brand name formulary drugs	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$25 (when no generic equivalent available; deductible waived)
➤ Brand name non-formulary drugs ¹	45% of drug negotiated rate up to \$40
➤ Self-administered injectable drugs, except insulin	20% of drug negotiated rate (maximum \$100 copay)
Non-participating Retail Pharmacies (compound drugs & specialty pharmacy drugs not covered)	Member pays the above copay plus: 50% of the remaining prescription drug covered expense & costs in excess of the maximum amount allowed
Supply Limits²	
➤ Retail Pharmacy (participating and non-participating) & Specialty Pharmacy (participating only)	30-day supply; 60-day supply for federally classified Schedule II attention deficit disorder drugs that require a triplicate prescription form, but require a double copay; 6 tablets or units/30-day period for impotence and/or sexual dysfunction drugs (available only at retail pharmacies)
➤ Mail Service	90-day supply

¹When the member's physician has specified "dispense as written" (DAW) for non-formulary drugs, the copay for brand name formulary drugs will apply. When the member's physician has not specified DAW for non-formulary drugs, the higher copay will apply.

²Supply limits for certain drugs may be different. Please refer to the Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure form (EOC) for complete information.

The Prescription Drug Benefit covers the following:

- Outpatient prescription drugs and medications which the law restricts to sale by prescription. Formulas prescribed by a physician for the treatment of phenylketonuria. These formulas are subject to the copay for brand name drugs. The prescription must be filled within one year of being prescribed.
- Insulin
- Syringes when dispensed for use with insulin and other self-injectable drugs or medications
- Prescription oral contraceptives; contraceptive diaphragms. Contraceptive diaphragms are limited to one per year (unless it is determined that more than one per year is medically necessary) and are subject to the brand name copay.
- Drugs that have Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling for self-administration
- Disposable diabetic supplies (i.e., test strips and lancets)
- Prescription drugs for treatment of impotence and/or sexual dysfunction are limited to organic (non-psychological) causes.
- Certain over-the-counter drugs approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee to be included in the prescription drug formulary.
- Inhaler spacers and peak flow meters for the treatment of pediatric asthma. These items are subject to the copay for brand name drugs.

Prescription drug copays are separate from the medical copays of the medical plan and are not applied toward the Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximums.

Power Select HMO Prescription Drug Exclusions & Limitations

Immunizing agents, biological sera, blood, blood products or blood plasma.

Drugs & medicines used to induce spontaneous & non-spontaneous abortions.

Drugs & medications dispensed or administered in an outpatient setting, including outpatient hospital facilities and physicians' offices.

Professional charges for giving and injecting drugs

Drugs & medications that may be obtained without a physician's written prescription, except insulin or niacin for cholesterol lowering and certain over-the-counter drugs approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee to be included in the prescription drug formulary.

Drugs & medications dispensed by or while confined in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, rest home, sanatorium, convalescent hospital or similar facility.

Durable medical equipment, devices, appliances & supplies, even if prescribed by a physician, except contraceptive diaphragms, as specified as covered in the EOC.

Oxygen.

Cosmetics & health or beauty aids.

Drugs labeled "Caution, Limited by Federal Law to Investigational Use," or Non-FDA approved investigational drugs. Drugs and medicines prescribed for experimental indications. If you are denied a drug because we determine that the drug is experimental or investigative, you may ask that the denial be reviewed by an external independent medical review organization. See EOC for details.

Any cost for a drug that is higher than what we cover. Member's copay is the only cost member has when member gets drug at a participating pharmacy. But, when member gets drug at a non-participating pharmacy, member's cost may be higher. At a non-participating pharmacy, member has to pay the copay that applies plus any amount over the limited fee schedule, except when the drugs are related to urgent care or emergency services.

Drugs which have not been approved for general use by the State of California Department of Health Services or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This does not apply to drugs that are medically necessary for a covered condition.

Over-the-counter drugs to stop smoking (for example Zyban, Nicotine patches, gums or sprays). This does not apply to medically necessary drugs that member can only get with a prescription under state and federal law.

Drugs used primarily for cosmetic purposes (e.g., Retin-A for wrinkles). But, this will not apply to the use of this type of drug for medically necessary treatment of a medical condition other than one that is cosmetic.

Drugs used primarily to treat infertility (including, but not limited to, Clomid, Pergonal and Metrodin) unless medically necessary for another covered condition.

Anorexiant and Drugs used for weight loss, except when used to treat morbid obesity (e.g., diet pills & appetite suppressants).

Drugs obtained outside the U.S. unless related to emergency services or urgent care.

Allergy desensitization products or allergy serum.

Infusion drugs, except drugs that are self-administered subcutaneously.

Herbal supplements, nutritional and dietary supplements except for formulas for the treatment of phenylketonuria.

Prescription drugs with an over-the-counter equivalent (the same chemical or active ingredient) except insulin. This does not apply if an over-the-counter equivalent was tried and it did not work.

Compound medications obtained from other than a participating pharmacy. **Member will have to pay the full cost of the compound drugs if member obtains drug at a non-participating pharmacy.**

Specialty pharmacy drugs that must be obtained from the specialty pharmacy program, but, which are obtained from a retail pharmacy are not covered by this plan. **Member will have to pay the full cost of the specialty pharmacy drugs obtained from a retail pharmacy that member should have obtained from the specialty pharmacy program.**

Third Party Liability

Blue Cross of California is entitled to reimbursement of benefits paid if the member recovers damages from a legally liable third party.

*The Power of Blue.*SM

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