



PDL Tracker

Prescription Drug List and Benefit Plan Update



May 2012

The *PDL Tracker* provides a recap of changes outside our Jan. 1 and July 1 pharmacy benefit updates including:

- new down-tiers and tier placements
- new medications excluded at launch
- new brand, generic, and OTC medication launches

Members are not negatively impacted by all of these changes so there are no planned member communications unless noted otherwise.

Generic Lipitor moves to lower tier effective June 1

Last November, generic Lipitor (atorvastatin), a medication used to treat high cholesterol, launched. It was priced at a premium to brand Lipitor due to a six-month period of limited generic competition. As a result, the generic was placed in a higher tier than the brand to help reduce costs.

On June 1, generic Lipitor's six-month period of limited generic competition expired and other manufacturers entered the market, decreasing the generic's overall price. At that time, the following tier placement updates took effect. For more information, see the article in the UHC Customer Connection.

PDL Type	Medication Name	Tier Placement
Advantage PDL	generic Lipitor (atorvastatin)	3 ▶ 2
	Lipitor	2 ▶ 3
Traditional PDL	generic Lipitor (atorvastatin)	3 ▶ 1
	Lipitor	1 ▶ 3

Generic Plavix (clopidogrel bisulfate) moves to Tier 1

On May 17, the generic form of Plavix, a medication used to prevent blood clots, launched. Without an exclusivity period granted, the generic is available from multiple generic manufacturers, which will increase competition and reduce the price. The following tier placements are effective.

Members will pay less for the generic than they are currently paying for the brand.

Medication Name	Tier Placement
generic Plavix (clopidogrel bisulfate)	1
Plavix	2 ▶ 3

Generic Launches

New generic medication launches occur throughout the year. On our Advantage PDL, we have the ability to place any drug in any tier. This approach allows us to make **tier placement decisions based on a medication's overall health care value**, not its classification as brand or generic.

Therapeutic Use	Medication Name	New Generic Tier Placement ¹	Current Brand Tier	Effective Date
Diabetes	metformin extended-release (generic Fortamet)	Tier 3	Tier 3	May 10
Blood Clots	enoxaparin sodium vials (generic Lovenox)	Tier 2	Tier 3	May 10
Infections	tinidazole (generic Tindamax)	Tier 3	Tier 3	May 25
Pain	hydromorphone 1mg/mL (generic Dilaudid-5 Liquid)	Tier 1	Tier 3	May 23

¹New generic tier placements only apply to the Advantage PDL. Generics are placed in Tier 1 on the Traditional PDL.

Down-Tiers

Down-tiers refer to medications that move to a lower tier, making them more affordable for members. Down-tiers occur throughout the year, helping members take immediate advantage of the cost savings.

Therapeutic Use	Medication Name	Brand or Generic	Tier Placement	PDL Type	Effective Date
Seizures	levetiracetam tablet, extended-release 24HR (generic Keppra XR)	Generic	3 ▶ 2	Advantage	May 7

Exclude at Launch – only applies to customers who have implemented Exclude at Launch

The Exclude at Launch Program enables us to immediately exclude upon launch a high-cost medication from benefit coverage, eliminating unnecessary costs for you and minimizing any disruption for your employees.

Therapeutic Use	Medication Name	Clinical Rationale ²	Alternatives	Effective Date
Excessive Daytime Drowsiness (EDD)	Modafinil (generic Provigil)	Modified Version	Nuvigil	May 4
Parkinson's Disease	ropinirole extended-release (generic Requip XL)	Same Active Ingredient	ropinirole immediate-release (generic Requip)	May 25
Rosacea	Rosadan Gel Kit	Same Active Ingredient	metronidazole gel (generic Metrogel)	May 15

²UnitedHealthcare uses pre-defined criteria to determine if a newly launched medication should be excluded; this criteria includes that the drug contains the same or a modified version of the active ingredient of a covered medication or be in a class with OTC therapeutic equivalent.

SL **Supply Limits**

Supply Limits will be applied to new medications when other medications in their therapeutic class already have these clinical programs in place. This immediate action will help avoid member disruption. Supply Limits establish the maximum quantity of a drug that is covered per copay or in a specified timeframe.

Therapeutic Use	Medication Name	Current Tier/Benefit Coverage	New Supply Limit	Effective Date
Hepatitis C	Pegasys ProClick 135,180 mcg	Tier 2	1 Convenience pack/ 4 auto-injectors	5/15/2012