

Preferred Drug List

Please refer to the *Preferred Drug List (PDL)* when prescribing for Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus members. This guide does not contain a complete list of drugs. Rather, it lists the preferred drugs within the most commonly prescribed therapeutic categories.

The medications included in the *PDL* are reviewed and approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. This committee includes practicing physicians and pharmacists from our provider community. The goal of the *PDL* is to provide cost-effective pharmacotherapy choices based on prospective, concurrent and retrospective review of medication therapies and utilization.

Unless otherwise noted, the use of available generics is required. Multisource, brand-name drugs require prior authorization.

Note: Many over-the-counter products are covered and should be considered for first-line therapy when appropriate. Cough and cold agents may be an excluded benefit for some plans.

Key:

- * age restrictions apply
- PA requires prior authorization
- ST requires trial of first-step product
- QL daily dosage limits apply
- RX legend prescription product
- X distribution through specialty pharmacy network
- OTC over-the-counter available by prescription

ANTIBACTERIALS

ANTIBIOTICS

CEPHALOSPORINS

First Generation

- QL cefadroxil
- QL cephalexin

Second Generation

- QL cefaclor
- QL cefprozil
- QL cefuroxime axetil

Third Generation

- QL cefdinir
- QL cefpodoxime

FLUOROQUINOLONES

- QL* ciprofloxacin tabs
- levofloxacin

- * ofloxacin

MACROLIDES

- QL azithromycin
- QL clarithromycin
- QL erythromycin (all salt forms)

PENICILLINS

- QL amoxicillin
- QL amoxicillin/clavulanate
- QL ampicillin
- QL dicloxacillin
- QL penicillin VK

SULFONAMIDES

- sulfadiazine
- QL sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim

TETRACYCLINES

- doxycycline monohydrate (caps/susp only)
- minocycline (IR)
- tetracycline

ANTIFUNGALS

- QL clotrimazole troches
- QL fluconazole
- QL griseofulvin
- QL griseofulvin suspension
- QL ketoconazole cream, shampoo
- QL nystatin

- QL terbinafine

ANTIVIRALS- HEPATITIS C

- PA QL elbasvir/grazoprevir (Zepatier)
- PA glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Mavyret)

- PA peginterferon alfa 2a

- PA peginterferon alfa 2b

- PA QL sofosbuvir (Sovaldi)
- ribavirin

ANTIVIRALS

- acyclovir
- QL famciclovir
- QL valacyclovir

HIV/AIDS

Please see Amerigroup formulary for covered agents.

INFLUENZA

- QL oseltamivir
- QL zanamivir

MISCELLANEOUS

- albendazole
- atovaquone-proguanil
- clindamycin
- ethambutol
- isoniazid
- ivermectin
- methenamine
- QL mefloquine
- metronidazole tabs

- neomycin
- QL nitrofurantoin caps
- praziquantel
- pyrazinamide
- rifabutin
- rifampin caps
- rifapentine
- rifater

CARDIOVASCULAR AGENTS

ACE INHIBITORS and COMBINATIONS

- QL benazepril, benazepril/HCTZ
- captopril, captopril/HCTZ
- enalapril, enalapril/HCTZ
- QL fosinopril, fosinopril/HCTZ
- QL lisinopril, lisinopril/HCTZ
- moexipril, moexipril/HCTZ
- perindopril
- quinapril, quinapril/HCTZ

ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR BLOCKERS

- QL candesartan, candesartan/HCTZ
- QL irbesartan, irbesartan/HCTZ
- QL losartan, losartan/HCTZ
- QL valsartan, valsartan/HCTZ

ANTICOAGULANTS

- apixaban
- PA QL enoxaparin
- jantoven
- QL rivaroxaban
- warfarin

ANTIPLATELET AGENTS

- QL OTC aspirin
- cilostazol

- QL clopidogrel

- QL dipyridamole

BETA BLOCKERS and COMBINATIONS

- acebutolol
- atenolol
- atenolol/chlorthalidone

- betaxolol
- bisoprolol, bisoprolol/HCTZ
- carvedilol
- labetalol
- metoprolol
- QL metoprolol HCTZ
- metoprolol ext rel
- nadolol
- pindolol
- propranolol, propranolol/HCTZ
- propranolol ext rel
- sotalol
- timolol

CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS

- QL amlodipine
- QL diltiazem ext-rel
- QL felodipine ext-rel
- QL isradipine
- QL nifedipine ext-rel
- QL nicardipine
- QL verapamil ext-rel

DIURETICS

- amiloride
- amiloride/HCTZ
- bumetanide
- chlorthalidone
- furosemide
- hydrochlorothiazide
- indapamide
- metolazone
- spironolactone
- spironolactone/HCTZ (25/25 mg only)
- toremide
- triamterene/HCTZ

LIPID LOWERING AGENTS

- QL cholestyramine
- colestipol
- QL PA ezetimibe
- QL ST ezetimibe w/simvastatin
- QL fenofibrate
- QL gemfibrozil

QL lovastatin
QL OTC niacin IR, ER
QL OTC nicotinic acid
QL pravastatin
QL simvastatin
PCSK-9 INHIBITORS
PA evolocumab
MISCELLANEOUS AGENTS
digoxin tab/soln

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

QL donepezil
QL galantamine
QL galantamine ER
QL memantine

ANALGESICS

QL* codeine/APAP
QL PA fentanyl transdermal
QL PA fentanyl citrate lozenge
QL hydrocodone/acetaminophen
QL hydrocodone/ibuprofen
QL hydromorphone
QL meperidine
QL PA methadone
QL morphine tab, soln, supp
QL PA morphine ER tab
QL oxycodone, oxycodone/APAP

HYLAURONICS

PA hyaluronate sodium (Euflexxa)
PA hyaluronate sodium (Gelsyn)
PA hyaluronate sodium (Supartz FX)

MISCELLANEOUS

lidocaine cream, HC
lidocaine jelly, gel
QL lidocaine sol
lidocaine/pramoxine crm
(without applicator)
QL PA lidocaine topical patch
QL tramadol; tramadol/APAP
ANTICONVULSANTS
QL* carbamazepine
QL clonazepam tabs

QL diazepam rectal gel
QL divalproex del-rel, ER, sprinkle
QL epitol
QL ethosuximide
QL felbamate
QL gabapentin
QL lamotrigine disper tab, ER,
ODT
QL levetiracetam
QL oxcarbazepine
QL phenobarbital
QL phenytoin sod ext-rel
QL phenytoin tabs, chewable
QL primidone
QL roweepra
QL tiagabine (2 mg and 4 mg)
QL topiramate
QL valproic acid
QL zonisamide
ANTIDEPRESSANTS
QL amitriptyline
QL amitriptyline/perphenazine
QL amoxapine
QL bupropion, bupropion SR/XL
QL chlordiazepoxide/amitriptyline
QL desipramine
QL doxepin
QL imipramine
QL maprotiline
QL mirtazapine
QL nortriptyline
QL phenelzine
QL protriptyline
QL tranlycypromine
QL trazodone
QL trimipramine
SNRIs
QL venlafaxine
QL venlafaxine XR
SSRIs
QL citalopram
QL escitalopram
QL fluoxetine (except 60 mg)
QL fluvoxamine

QL paroxetine hcl
QL sertraline
ANTIPSYCHOTICS – oral
QL* aripiprazole (tabs only)
QL* carbamazepine
QL* chlorpromazine
QL* clozapine
QL* lithium carbonate
QL* lithium carbonate ext rel
QL* lithium solution
QL* loxapine
QL* olanzapine tab
QL* paliperidone ext rel
QL* perphenazine
QL* pimozide
QL* risperidone tab/soln
QL* quetiapine IR
QL* thioridazine
QL* thiothixene
QL* trifluoperazine
QL* ziprasidone
ANTIPSYCHOTICS – injectables
* PA aripiprazole (Abilify
Maintena)
* PA aripiprazole lauroxil
(Aristada)
*QL fluphenazine decan, inj
*QL haloperidol inj
*PA olanzapine (Zyprexa
Relprevv)
*PA paliperidone(Invega
Sustenna)
*PA paliperidone (Invega
Trinza)
*PA risperidone (Risperdal
Consta)
ANXIETY
QL alprazolam
QL buspirone
QL chlordiazepoxide
QL clonazepam
QL clorazepate
QL diazepam
QL hydroxyzine HCl, pamoate

QL lorazepam
QL oxazepam
ATTENTION DEFICIT
HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER
QL* amphet/dextroamph, ER
QL* atomoxetine
QL* clonidine ER
QL* dexmethylphenidate
QL* dexmethylphenidate ER
QL* dextroamphetamine, ext-rel
QL ST* guanfacine
QL* methylphenidate, ext-rel
MIGRAINE
QL amitriptyline
QL butalbital/APAP
QL butalbital/APAP/caff
QL* butalbital/APAP/caff/codeine
QL butalbital/ASA
QL butalbital/ASA/caff
QL* butalbital/ASA/caff/codeine
QL naratriptan
propranolol, ext-rel
QL sumatriptan tabs
QL ST sumatriptan inj, spray
OPIOID/ALCOHOL
DEPENDANCE
QL acamprosate tab
QL buprenorphine
QL buprenorphine/naloxone
SL tabs/film
disulfiram
naloxone inj syr and vials
QL naloxone nasal spray
naltrexone tab
naltrexone inj
PARKINSON'S DISEASE
QL amantadine (except tabs)
bentropine
bromocriptine
carbidopa/levodopa
carbidopa/levodopa ext-rel
carbidopa/entacapone/
levodopa
pramipexole

ropinirole
selegiline caps, tabs
trihexyphenidyl
SEDATIVE/HYPNOTICS
QL chloral hydrate
estazolam
QL temazepam (15/30 mg only)
QL PA triazolam
QL zolpidem
zaleplon

COUGH & COLD

benzonatate
QL OTC*dextromethorphan syrup
QL OTC diphenhydramine liquid,capsules
QL OTC guaifenesin syrup
QL guaifenesin w/codeine syrup
QL* promethazine w/codeine syrup
QL* promethazine w/DM syrup
QL* pseudoephedrine syrup, tablets
QL saline spray, drops

DERMATOLOGY

ACNE ORAL

PA claravis
minocycline IR
PA myorisan
tetracycline

PA zenatane

ACNE TOPICAL

PA adapalene cream, gel
QL OTC benzoyl peroxide
clindamycin 1% gel, pad, soln
clindamycin-benzoyl peroxide
1.2-5% gel

OTC Differin 0.1% gel

erythromycin 2% pad, soln
metronidazole 0.75% cream, lotion,
gel
metronidazole 1% gel, gel pump
rosadan 0.75% cream, gel
* tretinoin gel (0.01%, 0.025%)
* tretinoin gel micro 0.1% tube

* tretinoin cream (0.025%, 0.05%, 0.1%)

* tretinoin emollient crm 0.05%

ANTIBACTERIALS

OTC chlorhexidine
mupirocin oint
silver sulfadiazine

CORTICOSTEROIDS

Products are grouped based upon relative potency.

LOW

QL RX/OTC hydrocortisone crm,
lot, oint

QL OTC hydrocortisone-aloe
1% crm

MEDIUM

QL betamethasone valerate crm

QL fluticasone propionate crm,
ointment

QL mometasone furoate crm, oint,
soln

QL triamcinolone acet crm, oint
HIGH

QL amcinonide oint, lot

QL betamethasone dipr aug crm

QL betamethasone dipr lotion

QL betamethasone valerate oint

QL diflorasone diacetate crm

QL fluocinonide E cream

QL triamcinolone acet crm, oint
VERY HIGH

QL clobetasol E propionate crm

QL clobetasol propionate crm,
gel, oint, soln

QL halobetasol propionate crm,
ointment

FUNGAL INFECTIONS

OTC butenafine HCL

QL PA ciclodan 8% soln

QL PA ciclopirox 8% soln

OTC clotrimazole

ketoconazole

OTC miconazole nitrate
nystatin

OTC generic terbinafine HCL
cream

terbinafine tab

OTC tolnaftate

SCABIES AND PEDICULOSIS

QL permethrin 5% cream

QL OTC permethrin 1% rinse

OTC pyrethrins/piperonyl
butoxide 4%
spinosad 0.9% topical
suspension

VIRAL INFECTIONS

QL acyclovir ointment

QL docosanol topical
podofilox

QL OTC salicylic acid 17%

MISCELLANEOUS

QL ammonium lactate 12%

QL emollient ointment
(hydrolatum)

QL selenium sulfide shampoo

QL ST tacrolimus oint

QL urea crm/gel 40%

EAR, NOSE & THROAT

QL acetic acid/aluminum
acetate

benzocaine/antipyrine

OTC carbamide peroxide 6.5%
neomycin/polymyxinB/hc

QL ofloxacin

ANTI-HISTAMINES

QL azelastine spray

QL cyproheptadine

QL OTC diphenhydramine

QL OTC* fexofenadine

QL OTC loratadine

INTRANASAL STEROIDS

QL OTC fluticasone

QL OTC triamcinolone

ELECTROLYTIC AND RENAL AGENTS

calcium acetate

PA sucroferric oxyhydroxide
(Velphoro)

ENDOCRINOLOGY

ANTIDIABETICS

INJECTABLE AGENTS

ST albiglutide

QL ST liraglutide

INSULINS

QL insulin aspart/insulin
aspart protamine (Novolog
Mix)

QL insulin glargine (Basaglar
Kwikpen)

QL insulin glulisine (Apidra)

QL insulin isophane & regular
(Humulin, Novolin)

QL insulin lispro/insulin lispro
protamine (Humalog Mix)

MONITORING STRIPS AND KITS/DIABETIC SUPPLIES

QL True Metrix (Trividia)

QL select lancets, select syringes
and needles

QL True Metrix control sol

QL alcohol prep pads (various)

ORAL AGENTS

ST empagliflozin

ST empagliflozin/metformin
glimepiride

glipizide, glipizide ext- rel

glyburide, glyburide

micronized

glyburide/metformin

QL ST linagliptin

QL ST linagliptin/metformin

QL ST linagliptin/metformin XR

QL metformin, metformin XR

QL ST nateglinide

QL ST pioglitazone

QL ST pioglitazone/glimepiride

QL ST pioglitazone/metformin

QL ST repaglinide

QL ST simvastatin; sitagliptin

QL ST sitagliptin

QL ST sitagliptin/metformin

QL ST sitagliptin/metformin XR

HORMONE THERAPY

PA testosterone cyp inj

PA testosterone enan inj

PA QL testosterone gel 1%

HUMAN GROWTH HORMONE

PA somatropin (Zomacton)

OSTEOPOROSIS/PAGETS

QL alendronate

QL raloxifene

PA X teriparatide

THYROID DISEASE

QL levothyroxine-
levoxyl

liothyronine

nature-throid

np thyroid

unithroid

westhroid

ANTINEOPLASTIC

alkeran

cyclophosphamide

etoposide

leukeran

mercaptopurine

QL octreotide

tabloid

trexall

GASTROINTESTINAL

DIARRHEA

diphenoxylate/atropine

OTC QL loperamide (tabs only)

EMESIS

QL apreptant

OTC meclizine

metoclopramide

QL ondansetron ODT

Prochlorperazine

promethazine

GERD/HEARTBURN/ULCERS

OTC QL esomeprazole

OTC RX famotidine oral/inj
nizatidine

OTC QL omeprazole

OTC QL lansoprazole

OTC RX ranitidine tabs/caps

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

QL balsalazide

QL hydrocortisone

QL mesalamine rectal susp

QL mesalamine

QL mesalamine/5 ASA

QL sulfasalazine

PANCREATIC ENZYMES

QL pancrelipase

RHEUMATOLOGY and MUSCULOSKELETAL

COX II INHIBITORS

PA QL celecoxib

MUSCLE RELAXANTS

QL baclofen

QL carisoprodol

carisoprodol/ASA
chlorzoxazone

QL cyclobenzaprine IR
(5 mg and 10 mg only)
dantrolene

QL methocarbamol

orphenadrine

QL tizanidine (tablets only)

NSAIDs

diclofenac

diclofenac ext-rel

etodolac

etodolac ext-rel

fenoprofen

ibuprofen

indomethacin

ketoprofen

meloxicam

QL ketorolac tromethamine

QL meclufenamate
nabumetone
naproxen sodium
piroxicam
sulindac
MISC. ANTIRHEUMATIC
auranofin
azathioprine
hydroxychloroquine
leflunomide
methotrexate
sulfasalazine
MISC. IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE
cyclosporine
graf
mycophenolic acid
sirolimus
tacrolimus
CHELATING AGENTS
(Wilson's disease)
PA Depen
PA Syprine

OB-GYN

CONTRACEPTIVES
All generic oral contraceptives are covered
*QL EE/norelgestromin
*QL EE/norgestimate
*QL estradiol/norethindrone acet
*QL etonogestrel /EE vag ring
Today Contraceptive Sponge
EMERGENCY
CONTRACEPTIVES
ulipristal acetate (Ella)
levonorgestrel 1.5 mg tab
HORMONE THERAPY
estradiol tabs
PA estradiol patch
ethinyl
estradiol/norethindrone
estropipate
PA hydroxyprogesterone
PA Makena vial

medroxyprogesterone acetate
norethindrone
YuvaFem vaginal insert
VAGINAL INFECTIONS
clindamycin crm
OTC clotrimazole crm
fluconazole tabs
metronidazole tabs
metronidazole vaginal gel
OTC miconazole
nystatin vaginal tablet
terconazole
tioconazole oint

OPHTHALMIC

ALLERGY
QL cromolyn sodium
QL OTC ketotifen
QL lodoxamide
ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES
dexamethasone sodium phos
QL diclofenac 0.1% drops
fluorometholone 0.1% drops
QL neomycin/polymyxinB/HC sol
dexamethasone drops
prednisolone acetate 1%
drops
prednisolone sod 1% drops
sulfacetamide/prednisolone
drops
tobramycin/dexameth ophth
susp
DRY EYE
OTC artificial tears drops/ointment
PA Xiidra 5% (lifitegrast)
GLAUCOMA
betaxolol HCL 0.5%
QL brimonidine
carteolol
QL dorzolamide
QL dorzolamide/timolol
QL latanoprost
QL levobunolol
metipranolol

QL pilocarpine
QL timolol
QL timolol maleate (solution only)
INFECTIOUS
QL bacitracin
QL bacitracin/polymyxin B oint
QL ciprofloxacin
QL erythromycin
gatifloxacin 0.5% drops
QL gentamicin
levofloxacin 0.5% drops
moxifloxacin 0.5% drops
neomycin/polymyxin B/
gramicidin
ofloxacin
polymyxin B/trimethoprim
sulfacetamide 10%
tobramycin
QL trifluridine
VASOCONSTRICTOR
DECONGESTANTS
OTC artificial tears (generic)
naphazoline 0.1% eye drops
phenylephrine 2.5% eye drops
phenylephrine 10% eye drops

RESPIRATORY DRUGS

BETA AGONISTS
QL albuterol tabs, syrup
QL albuterol sulfate (Ventolin
HFA)
QL metaproterenol syrup
QL terbutaline tabs
CORTICOSTEROIDS
QL flunisolide (Aerospan)
QL fluticasone furoate
(Arnuity Ellipta)
ST QL fluticasone/vilanterol
(Breo Ellipta)
ST QL mometasone/formoterol
(Dulera)
LEUKOTRIENE MODIFIERS
QL montelukast
QL zafirlukast

NEBULIZER INHALATIONS
QL albuterol soln
QL * budesonide susp
QL cromolyn soln
QL ipratropium soln
QL ipratropium/albuterol soln
XANTHINES
theophylline ER tabs
theophylline soln/elixir
OTHERS
QL AL albuterol; ipratropium MDI
QL ipratropium HFA
QL tiotropium (Spiriva Respimat)
QL umeclidinium/vilanterol
(Anoro Ellipta)
PULMONARY ARTERIAL
HYPERTENSION AGENTS
PA ambrisentan
SPACER DEVICES
QL Ace Aerosol Cloud Enhancer
QL Aerotrach Holding Chamber
QL Aerovent Plus Holding
Chamber
QL BreatheRite Spacer
QL BreatheRite Chamber
QL Compact Space Chamber
QL Liteaire
QL Microchamber
QL Microspacer
QL Optichamber Diamond
QL Pocket Chamber
QL Primeaire Chamber
QL Prochamber Holding Chamber
QL Riteflo Spacer
QL Vortex Holding Chamber
QL Vortex VHC Frog Child Mask
QL Vortex VHC Ladybug Toddler
QL Watchhaler Spacer

UROLOGICAL

alfuzosin
bethanechol
darifenacin
doxazosin

finasteride
QL oxybutynin, oxybutynin ext-rel
OTC oxytrol for women (patch)
tamsulosin
terazosin
tolterodine, tolterodine ER
trospium, trospium ER

SMOKING DETERRENTS

QL bupropion SR
OTC QL nicotine patch, gum, lozenge
Nicotrol Inhaler, nasal spray
varenicline (Chantix)

MISCELLANEOUS

ANAPHYLAXIS THERAPY AGENTS
QL epinephrine 0.15 Mg Auto-Inject
QL epinephrine 0.3 Mg Auto-Inject
epinephrine 0.1 Mg/ML Syringe
epinephrine 1 Mg/ML Vial
METABOLIC DEFICIENCY AGENTS
levocarnitine 330 mg tab