

Short-term or Acute Medications versus Long-term or Maintenance Medications

p.t.i. managed care concepts



Prescription drug card benefit plans often differ in their plan design. In some plans, the benefits may vary depending upon whether the medication is considered to be an acute or a maintenance medication. Your medication copay and the quantity of medication you can receive in a prescription can vary depending upon the status of your medication. The following is a guide to help you understand your prescription drug card benefit.

ACUTE MEDICATIONS

Acute medications are medications that are to be used for a short period of time. This can include medications that are given to you as a starter dose. A starter dose of medication is a medication that may become a maintenance medication but, based on its generic name and strength, has not been obtained by you within the previous six-month period. A starter quantity of medication for all new maintenance medications prescribed by your physician are not to exceed a 30 day supply. Medications such as antibiotics or other agents that are given to you to cure or treat a condition from which you will recover are considered curative treatments and are classified as non-maintenance medication, or a short-term medication

ACUTE (Short-term) MEDICATIONS

The following list is not all-inclusive. It is for illustrative purposes only.

Acne products (oral and topical)	Analgesics	Anti-anxiety medications
Antibiotics	Anti-coagulants	Anti-depressants
Anti-diarrheals	Anti-fungal medications	Antihistamines
Anti-nausea/vomiting medications	Anti-psychotics	Anti-viral medications
Birth control products	Corticosteroids	Cough/Cold/Allergy products
Decongestants	Ear drops and ointments	Erectile dysfunction treatments
Eye drops and ointments	Fertility agents	Hematopoietic agents
Hemorrhoidal treatment products	Laxatives	Migraine medications
Muscle relaxants	Narcotics	Pain killers
Psoriasis medications	Rectal use products	Skin cream and ointments
Smoking cessation products	Steroids (nasal and oral)	Topical skin products
Ulcer medications	Vaginal use products	Weight loss therapies

Individual plan designs may vary to include or exclude certain medications. Please check with your benefits office if you have any questions regarding your specific coverage.

MAINTENANCE MEDICATIONS

Maintenance medications can also be referred to as long-term medications. The PTI/NPS list of maintenance medication include medications that meet the following criteria that was set by First DataBank and Medi-Span®. First DataBank is the industry standard organization that creates and maintains a comprehensive drug database for all retail pharmacies and retail prescription drug products.

MAINTENANCE (Long-term) MEDICATIONS

The following list is not all-inclusive. It is for illustrative purposes only.

Cholesterol lowering drugs	Diabetes medications
Digestive aid medications	Diuretics (water-pills)
Estrogen therapies	Heart medications
High blood pressure medications	Osteoporosis medications
Potassium chloride supplements	Prostate medications
Seizure medications	Some multivitamins
Thyroid dysfunction medications	

Individual plan designs may vary to include or exclude certain medications. Please check with your benefits office if you have any questions regarding your specific coverage.

Criteria for a Maintenance Medication

1. The drug has a low probability for dosage or therapy changes due to side effects, serum drug concentration monitoring, or therapeutic response over a course of prolonged therapy. Therefore, it is cost-effective to dispense the drug in quantities greater than the standard 30 day supply.
2. The drug's most common use is to treat a chronic disease state. A drug may have an indication for maintenance therapy but lacks the maintenance drug code if that indication is not the most common use of the drug.
3. Therapy with the drug is not considered curative or promoting of recovery.
4. The drug is administered continuously rather than intermittently.

The criteria listed above are limited to typical outpatient use of a drug. Dosage forms that are not practical for large dispensing quantities (such as liquids) or have limited expiration dating are excluded. Drugs known for life-threatening toxicity when taken in overdose may be excluded. Non-drug products and non-prescription drug products, with the exception of insulin (if covered by the plan), are excluded.



Please do not hesitate to contact PTI/NPS at 1-800-546-5677 if you have any questions regarding your specific medication therapy.

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