



Business Administrator
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Effective September 1, 2019, CSEA health insurance participants are moving to a new 3-tier Prescription Drug Plan.

Your 3-tier prescription drug benefit makes it easy for you to make informed choices and encourages savings when choosing your medications. To help ensure that you have access to safe, effective drug therapy, **step therapy** and **prior authorization** requirements will apply to select medications.

What does this mean for me?

Step Therapy: Effective September 1, 2019 some of your brand name prescription drugs like Entresto, Eucrisa, Glumetza, Levitra, Nexium and Metformin ER may be subject to step therapy. This means you may be required to try a generic alternative drug to treat your condition before the brand name drug will be covered.

For example, if Drug A (brand) and Drug B (alternative) both treat the same medical condition, Drug B may not be covered unless Drug A is tried first. If Drug A does not work, Drug B will be covered.

Prior Authorization: Your prescription drugs may also be subject to prior authorization. This means that the plan may require your physician obtain approval from the insurance plan to prescribe a specific medication such as Enbrel, Otezla, Stelara, or Xeljanz. Clinical pharmacists and physicians review medication requests to make sure that the drug and dose is appropriately prescribed based on FSA and manufacturer guidelines.

Please Note: Step Therapy and Prior Authorization only apply to certain medications. The full listing can be found at the following link (please select "Commercial 3-Tier Prior Authorization and Step Therapy Medication List):

<https://www.excellusbcs.com/wps/portal/xl/provider/prescriptions/priorauth-step-therapy>

You may also call Excellus at 1-877-253-4797 and select option 2 for prescription drug coverage.

These **do not apply** to any prescriptions administered while you are in the hospital. These programs are coordinated between your pharmacy, prescribing provider and health plan.

These programs can save you and the health plan money on certain prescriptions!