

Agent Alert

MedicareBlueSM Solutions



October 22, 2019

In this Agent Alert

- MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP) receives 4.5-Star Rating for 2020
- 2019 to 2020 Notable formulary changes

MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP) receives 4.5-Star Rating for 2020

MedicareBlue Rx and Group MedicareBlue Rx achieved a 4.5-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for 2020.

2020 Star Ratings overview

- Region 25 has 33 prescription drug plans (PDPs) available in 2020
- MedicareBlue Rx has the highest Star Rating in the region
- The second highest Star Rating in the region is 4

2020 Enrollment kits – Stars information updated needed

All enrollment kits must be updated with the new Star Rating information by **November 1, 2019**. Kits received on or after November 1 will include the 2020 Star Rating insert. Agents who have kits on-hand must include the 2020 Star Rating insert in all kits by November 1.

The 2020 Star Rating will be available online by November 1 at **YourMedicareSolutions.com/Documents**. A copy of the Star Rating insert is included with this Agent Alert.

2019 to 2020 Notable formulary changes

Lists of the most notable changes from the 2019 to 2020 formularies will be posted under the Documents tab by November 1 on **YourMedicareSolutions.com**.

Many of the changes occurred for the following reasons:

- Some changes are typical when a formulary is updated for the year.
- Some changes are the result of tighter controls from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) on drugs classified as high risk medications for those over age 65.
- Some drugs may be on a different tier in 2020. This happens when more than one generic of a drug is available or if a generic of a brand-name drug is or will soon become available.

Notable changes for Group MedicareBlue Rx and Individual MedicareBlue Rx are attached with this Alert.

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MedicareBlue™ Solutions



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MedicareBlue Rx coverage is separately issued by one of the following plans: Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska,* Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota,* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota* and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.*

*Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Group MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP) is a Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Enrollment in Group MedicareBlue Rx depends on renewal of the plan sponsor's contract with Medicare.

Coverage is available to members of an employer or union group and separately issued by one of the following plans: Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska,* Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota,* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota,* and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.*

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2020 Medicare Star Ratings*

The Medicare Program rates all health and prescription drug plans each year, based on a plan's quality and performance. Medicare Star Ratings help you know how good a job our plan is doing. You can use these Star Ratings to compare our plan's performance to other plans. The two main types of Star Ratings are:

1. An Overall Star Rating that combines all of our plan's scores.
2. Summary Star Rating that focuses on our medical or our prescription drug services.

Some of the areas Medicare reviews for these ratings include:

- How our members rate our plan's services and care;
- How well our doctors detect illnesses and keep members healthy;
- How well our plan helps our members use recommended and safe prescription medications.

For 2020, MedicareBlue Rx received the following Overall Star Rating from Medicare.

★★★★½
4.5 Stars

We received the following Summary Star Rating for MedicareBlue Rx's health/drug plan services:

Health Plan Services:	Not Offered
Drug Plan Services:	★★★★½ 4.5 Stars

The number of stars shows how well our plan performs.

★★★★★	5 stars - excellent
★★★★	4 stars - above average
★★★	3 stars - average
★★	2 stars - below average
★	1 star - poor

Learn more about our plan and how we are different from other plans at www.medicare.gov.

You may also contact us 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Local time at 866-434-2037 (toll-free) or 711 (TTY).

Current members please call 888-832-0075 (toll-free) or 711 (TTY).

*Star Ratings are based on 5 Stars. Star Ratings are assessed each year and may change from one year to the next.

MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP) is a Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Enrollment in MedicareBlue Rx depends on contract renewal.

The Medicare Program rates all health and prescription drug plans each year, based on a plan's quality and performance. Medicare Star Ratings help you know how good a job our plan is doing. You can use these Star Ratings to compare our plan's performance to other plans. The two main types of Star Ratings are:

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Health Plan Services: Not Offered

Drug Plan Services: ★★★★★
4.5 Stars

The number of stars shows how well our plan performs.



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4 stars - above average
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Current members please call 877-838-3827 (toll-free) or 711 (TTY).

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Group MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP) is a Medicare-approved Part D sponsor. Enrollment in Group MedicareBlue Rx depends on renewal of the plan sponsor's contract with Medicare.



MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP)

A Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP): 2019 to 2020 Notable formulary changes

Drugs were selected as notable using the following criteria:

1. Drug additions
2. Drug removals
 - a. Medication is used to treat a chronic condition (hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, respiratory)
 - b. Controlled substance sensitivity
3. Drugs changing tiers
 - a. Drugs are moving from one tier to another on the formulary
4. Prior authorization additions

Formulary alternatives were chosen with the following resources: Safer drug choices for high risk medications, formulary look-up tool therapeutic alternatives, CVSC Medical Affairs year-over-year changes for existing formulary.

Call **1-888-832-0075** (TTY **711**), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily, Central and Mountain times, for more information.

MedicareBlue Rx (PDP) is a prescription drug plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in MedicareBlue Rx depends on contract renewal. Coverage is available to residents of the service area and separately issued by one of the following plans: Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana,* Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska,* Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota,* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota,* and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming*.

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MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP)

A Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

The tables below summarize some of the most significant changes from the 2019 to 2020 MedicareBlue Rx formulary but does not include all changes.

Drug additions:

Drug name	Purpose	2020 Tier
Fluocinonide - 0.05% ointment	Topical steroid	4
Mesalamine - 1.2GM DR tablet	Ulcerative colitis	4
Stelara	Plaque psoriasis-psoriatic arthritis	5
Zarxio	White blood cell production	5

Drug removals:

Drug name	Purpose	Notes	Alternative
Amlodipine/Olmesartan	High blood pressure		Amlodipine/Valsartan
Apriso/Asacol/Delzicol	Ulcerative colitis	Generic available	Mesalamine ER
Lotemax Ophthalmic solution	Eye inflammation	Generic available	Loteprednol Ophthalmic solution
Lyrica	Neuropathic pain seizures	Generic available	Pregabalin
Transderm	Anitemetec	Generic available	Scopolamine - 1mg/3 day
Uloric/Febuxostat	Gout		Allopurinol
Vesicare/Solifenacin	Bladder control		Oxybutynin



MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP)

A Medicare Prescription Drug Plan

Drugs changing tiers:

Drug name	2019 Tier	2020 Tier
Allopurinol	1	2
Baclofen	2	3
Buspirone - 7.5mg	2	3
Clindamycin - 1% solution	3	4
Estradiol Vaginal tab 10mcg	3	4
Fluconazole - 50mg, 100mg, 200mg	2	3
Fluocinonide - 0.05% solution	3	4
Fluoxetine - 40mg capsule	1	2
Glimepiride	1	2
Hydrocodone/acetaminophen tablets	2	3
Loperamide	2	3
Mirtazapine - 7.5mg	2	3
Restasis (single use)	3	4
Temazepam	3	4
Terazosin -10mg	1	2
Theophylline ER - 300mg, 450mg	3	4
Travatan Z	3	4

Prior authorization additions:

Drug name	Purpose	2020 Impact
Quetiapine ER	Antipsychotic	Prior authorization added
Trintellix	Antipsychotic	Prior authorization added
Viibryd	Antidepressant	Prior authorization added



Group MedicareBlueSM Rx (PDP): 2019 to 2020 Notable formulary changes

Drugs were selected as notable using the following criteria:

1. Drug additions
2. Drug removals
 - a. Medication is used to treat a chronic condition (hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, respiratory)
 - b. Controlled substance sensitivity
3. Drugs changing tiers
 - a. Drugs are moving from one tier to another on the formulary
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Formulary alternatives were chosen with the following resources: Safer drug choices high risk medications, formulary look-up tool therapeutic alternatives, CVSC medical affairs year-over-year changes for existing formulary.

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The tables below summarize some of the most significant changes from the 2019 to 2020 Group MedicareBlue Rx formulary but does not include all changes.

Drug additions:

Drug name	Purpose	2020 Tier
Fluocinonide 0.05% ointment	Topical steroid	1
Mesalamine 1.2GM DR tablet	Ulcerative colitis	1
Stelara	Plaque psoriasis-psoriatic arthritis	4
Zarxio	White blood cell production	4

Drug removals:

Drug name	Purpose	Notes	Alternative
Apriso/Asacol/Delzicol	Ulcerative colitis	Generic available	Mesalamine ER
Lotemax ophthalmic solution	Inflammation of eye	Generic available	Loteprednol ophthalmic solution
Lyrica	Neuropathic pain-seizures	Generic available	Pregabalin
Sensipar	Blood calcium reduction	Generic available	Cinacalcet
Solifenacin	Bladder control		Oxybutynin
Transderm	Antiemetic	Generic available	Scopolamine 1mg/3 day
Uloric/Febuxostat	Gout		Allopurinol



Drugs changing tiers:

Drug name	2019 Tier	2020 Tier
Gleostine 40mg, 100mg	3	4
Linzess	2	3
Mesalamine 1000mg suppositories	1	4
Restasis single-use vials	2	3
Travatan Z	2	3

Prior authorization additions:

Drug name	Purpose	2020 Impact
Pregabalin	Anticonvulsant/neuropathic pain	Prior authorization added-new starts
Quetiapine ER	Antipsychotic	Prior authorization added-new starts
Trintellix	Antipsychotic	Prior authorization added-new starts
Viibryd	Antidepressant	Prior authorization added-new starts