

Step Therapy

2023

Most medical conditions can be treated with several different drug options. There are many drugs that cost much less than others despite working the same way and being just as effective. The Step Therapy program helps you get the treatment you need at the most affordable price.

Here's how it works:

Get a prescription → Try a **Step 1** drug → Move on to a **Step 2** drug if necessary



Step Therapy means trying less expensive options before moving on to more costly drugs. With this program, you would try a Step 1 drug before a Step 2 drug can be covered by your plan. A Step 2 drug will be covered if the Step 1 drug does not treat the condition it was prescribed for or if it causes side effects that stop treatment.

If your prescription is for a Step 2 drug, our pharmacy system will automatically check for Step Therapy requirements. If your pharmacy history shows you have already tried a Step 1 drug in the recent past, the prescription for the Step 2 drug may be processed. If not, the pharmacist will contact your prescriber for further explanation.

There are some drugs that need an additional step before they can be covered. For a Step 3 drug to be covered, both a Step 1 and a Step 2 drug must be tried first.

Many brand-name drugs with generic equivalents also require Step Therapy. A generic equivalent is a medication that contains the same active ingredients (what makes the medication work) as the brand-name drug, but often costs less.

We encourage you to discuss your treatment and medication options with your doctor. If you have questions about the Step Therapy program, call customer service at **800-759-3203**.

Step therapy medications (2 steps)*

If you have a prescription for any of the following Step 2 drugs, you will need to first try a Step 1 drug(s) before the Step 2 drug is covered.

Bold type = Brand-name drug Plain type = Generic drug

CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
ACNE	Any one of the following: Epiduo Forte, Onexton, Twyneo	Acanya⁺, Benzaclin⁺, Benzamycin⁺, Veltin⁺, Ziana⁺
	Any two single-agent generic topical clindamycin products	Clindagel 1%⁺
	doxycycline or minocycline	Minolira⁺
	doxycycline AND minocycline	Seysara

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
ADHD	Any three of the following: amphetamine-dextroamphetamine, dexamethylphenidate, dextroamphetamine, methylphenidate, Vyvanse	Adderall , ⁺ Adderall XR , ⁺ Adhansia XR , ⁺ Adzenys ER , Adzenys XR-ODT , ⁺ Aptensio XR , Concerta , ⁺ Cotempla XR-ODT , ⁺ Daytrana , ⁺ Desoxyn , Dyanavel XR , ⁺ Focalin , ⁺ Focalin XR , ⁺ Metadate CD , Methylin , Mydayis , ⁺ Procentra , Quillichew ER , ⁺ Quillivant XR , ⁺ Relexxii , Ritalin , ⁺ Ritalin LA , ⁺ Zenzedi ⁺
	Any one of the following: amphetamine-dextroamphetamine, dexamethylphenidate, dextroamphetamine, methylphenidate, Vyvanse	Azstarys , Jornay PM , Xelstrym
	Any two of the following: atomoxetine, clonidine ER, guanfacine ER	Intuniv , ⁺ Kapvay , Qelbree , ⁺ Strattera ⁺
ALLERGIC REACTIONS	epinephrine	Auvi-Q 0.15mg , ⁺ Auvi-Q 0.3mg , ⁺ Epipen , Epipen Jr ⁺
ANTIBIOTICS	doxycycline or minocycline	Acticlate , ⁺ Doryx , ⁺ Doryx MPC , ⁺ Doxycycline Hyclate DR 80mg ⁺ (ABA), LymePak , ⁺ Oracea , ⁺ Solodyn , ⁺ Targadox , ⁺ Vibramycin
	clindamycin vaginal cream or metronidazole vaginal gel	Cleocin Vaginal Suppository , ⁺ Cleocin Vaginal Cream , ⁺ Nuversa , ⁺ Vandazole
	Any one of the following: clindamycin vaginal cream, metronidazole vaginal gel, metronidazole tablet, tinidazole tablet	Solosec
ANTIFUNGALS	fluconazole AND a generic vaginal product (e.g., clotrimazole, miconazole, tioconazole, terconazole, boric acid)	Brexafemme , ⁺ Vivjoa
ANTIPSYCHOTICS#	Any two of the following: aripiprazole, asenapine, clozapine, olanzapine/olanzapine ODT, paliperidone ER, risperidone/risperidone ODT, quetiapine IR/ER, ziprasidone	Caplyta , Fanapt , Lybalvi , ⁺ Saphris , ⁺ Secuado ⁺
	Invega Sustenna or Invega Trinza	Invega Hafyera
ASTHMA/COPD	Any two of the following: Arnuity Ellipta , Flovent Diskus/Flovent HFA , Pulmicort Flexhaler , Qvar RediHaler ⁺	Alvesco , ⁺ ArmonAir Digihaler , ⁺ Asmanex , ⁺ Asmanex HFA ⁺
	Any two of the following: fluticasone-salmeterol/ Advair , Breo Ellipta , Symbicort	AirDuo Digihaler , ⁺ AirDuo RespiClick , ⁺ Dulera , ⁺ Fluticasone/Salmeterol ⁺ (ABA)
	Any two of the following: fluticasone-salmeterol/ Advair , Breo Ellipta , Serevent , Striverdi Respimat , Symbicort	Arcapta

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
	albuterol HFA (with the exception of Prasco manufacturer)	Albuterol HFA⁺ (Ventolin HFA ABA), Levalbuterol HFA⁺ (ABA), ProAir Digihaler,⁺ ProAir HFA,⁺ ProAir RespiClick,⁺ Proventil HFA,⁺ Ventolin HFA,⁺ Xopenex HFA⁺
	Spiriva	Incruse Ellipta,⁺ Tudorza Pressair⁺
	Anoro Ellipta AND Stiolto Respimat	Bevespi Aerosphere,⁺ Duaklir Pressair,⁺ Utibron Neohaler
	montelukast or zafirlukast	zileuton ER, Zyflo
CARDIOVASCULAR	Any one of the following: benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, moexipril, perindopril, quinapril, ramipril, trandolapril, benazepril-HCTZ, captopril-HCTZ, enalapril-HCTZ, fosinopril-HCTZ, lisinopril-HCTZ, quinapril-HCTZ, amlodipine-benazepril, trandolapril-verapamil, losartan, losartan-HCTZ, candesartan, candesartan-HCTZ, irbesartan, irbesartan-HCTZ, telmisartan, telmisartan-HCTZ, amlodipine-olmesartan, olmesartan, olmesartan-HCTZ, amlodipine-olmesartan-HCTZ	Edarbi, Edarbyclor, Tekturna HCT
	Any one of the following: amlodipine-olmesartan, amlodipine-benazepril, amlodipine-valsartan, telmisartan-amlodipine, trandolapril-verapamil, benazepril-HCTZ, candesartan-HCTZ, captopril-HCTZ, enalapril-HCTZ, fosinopril-HCTZ, lisinopril-HCTZ, losartan-HCTZ, olmesartan-HCTZ, quinapril-HCTZ, telmisartan-HCTZ, olmesartan-amlodipine-HCTZ	Exforge HCT⁺
	Any two of the following: acebutolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bisoprolol, carvedilol IR/ER, labetalol, metoprolol IR/ER, nadolol, pindolol, propranolol IR/ER	Kaspargo⁺
	toremide	Soanz
CHOLESTEROL	Any one of the following: atorvastatin, fluvastatin/ER, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin	Altoprev, Ezallor Sprinkle, Flolipid, Lescol XL,⁺ Lipitor,⁺ Livalo,⁺ Simvastatin Suspension (ABA), Zocor⁺
	fenofibrate or fenofibric acid AND Lipofen	Antara, Fenofibrate Micronized (ABA), Fenoglide, Fibricor, Triglide
	Any one of the following: atorvastatin 40mg, atorvastatin 80mg, rosuvastatin	Ezetimibe/Rosuvastatin⁺ (ABA), Roszet⁺
CONTRACEPTION	Any one of the following: Camila, Deblitane, Errin, Heather, Incassia, Jencycla, Jolivette, Lyza, norethindrone 0.35mg, Nora-Be, Norlyda, Norlyroc, Sharobel, Tulana	Slynd⁺

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
	Any one of the following: Gemmily, Merzee, norethindrone-ethinyl estradiol-ferrous fumarate	Taytulla
	Any one of the following: generic oral levonorgestrel-ethinyl estradiol, Xulane, Zafemy	Twirla ⁺
DEPRESSION#	bupropion SR	Aplenzin, Bupropion XL ⁺ (ABA), Forfivo XL ⁺
	Any two of the following: citalopram, desvenlafaxine ER, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine IR/ER, sertraline, venlafaxine IR/ER, duloxetine, bupropion, mirtazapine	Citalopram Capsule, ⁺ Desvenlafaxine ER (ABA), Paxil Suspension, Sertraline Capsule, ⁺ Trintellix
	duloxetine	Drizalma Sprinkle
	Any two of the following: desvenlafaxine ER, duloxetine, venlafaxine IR/ER	Fetzima
	venlafaxine hydrochloride ER	Venlafaxine Besylate ER
DIABETES	Any one of the following: metformin, metformin ER, metformin-glipizide, metformin-glyburide, metformin-pioglitazone	Avandia, Cycloset, Glyxambi, Janumet, Janumet XR, Januvia, Jentadueto, Jentadueto XR, Riomet, Riomet ER, Soliqua, Synjardy, Synjardy XR, Tradjenta, Trijardy XR, Xultophy
	Any one of the following (diabetes): metformin, metformin ER, metformin-glipizide, metformin-glyburide, metformin-pioglitazone or Any one of the following (heart failure): captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, perindopril, quinapril, ramipril, trandolapril, candesartan, losartan, valsartan, bisoprolol, carvedilol IR/ER, metoprolol ER, eplerenone, spironolactone, Entresto	Farxiga, Jardiance, Xigduo XR
	Any two of the following: Humalog, Lyumjev, Novolog ⁺	Admelog, ⁺ Apidra, ⁺ Fiasp ⁺
	Any three of the following: Lantus, Levemir, ⁺ Toujeo, Tresiba ⁺	Basaglar, ⁺ Insulin Glargine ⁺ (ABA), Semglee ⁺
	Contour Next test strips AND OneTouch ⁺ test strips	All other blood glucose test strips
	Contour Next meters AND OneTouch ⁺ meters	All other blood glucose meters
	Any one of the following: Baqsimi, Glucagon (generic or Fresenius manufacturer), Zegalogue	Glucagen HypoKit, ⁺ Glucagon Kit (Lilly manufacturer), ⁺ Gvoke ⁺
EAR CONDITIONS	ofloxacin	Cetraxal
	ofloxacin AND ciprofloxacin-dexamethasone otic	Ciprodex ⁺
	polyethylene glycol or lactulose	Linzess, Movantik, ⁺ Symproic

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
GASTROINTESTINAL (MISC.)	Creon AND Zenpep	Pancreaze⁺, Pertzye⁺, Viokace⁺
	Clenpiq or Suprep	MoviPrep⁺, OsmoPrep⁺, Plenvu⁺
	glycopyrrolate 2mg tablets	Dartisla ODT⁺
GENITOURINARY	Any one of the following: darifenacin ER, fesoterodine ER, oxybutynin IR/ER, solifenacin, tolterodine IR/ER, trospium IR/ER, Myrbetriq	Gelnique, Gemtesa⁺, Oxytrol, Toviaz⁺
	Any one of the following: oxybutynin IR/ER, oxybutynin syrup	Vesicare LS⁺
GOUT	colchicine tablets	Colchicine Capsules⁺ (ABA), Colcrys⁺, Gloperba⁺, Mitigare⁺
	allopurinol	Uloric
HORMONE REPLACEMENT	estradiol patch	Alora, Menostar, Minivelle, Vivelle-Dot⁺
	Any one of the following: Imvexxy, Osphena, Premarin Vaginal Cream	Femring
	Any two of the following: Imvexxy, Osphena, Premarin Vaginal Cream	Intrarosa
INSOMNIA	Any one of the following: eszopiclone, temazepam, zaleplon, zolpidem IR/ER	Belsomra, Dayvigo
	Any two of the following: eszopiclone, temazepam, zaleplon, zolpidem IR/ER	Quviviq⁺
	zolpidem or zolpidem ER	Edluar, Zolpimist
MIGRAINE	Any two of the following: almotriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan/ODT, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan/ODT	sumatriptan/naproxen, Onzetra Xsail⁺, Tosymra⁺, Treximet⁺, Zomig Spray, Zolmitriptan Nasal Spray (ABA)
NASAL POLYPS	mometasone nasal spray or Beconase AQ	Xhance⁺
NEUROLOGIC	gabapentin	Gralise
	Any one of the following: amitriptyline, cyclobenzaprine, duloxetine, gabapentin, pregabalin	pregabalin ER, Lyrica CR⁺, Savella
OPHTHALMIC	azelastine AND olopatadine	Bepreve⁺, Lastacaft, Pazeo, Zerviate⁺
	Any one of the following: diclofenac ophthalmic, flurbiprofen ophthalmic, ketorolac ophthalmic AND Prolensa	Bromsite⁺, Ilevro⁺, Nevanac⁺
	latanoprost AND travoprost AND Lumigan	Vyzulta⁺, Xelpros
OPIOID OVERDOSE	naloxone injection	LifEMS⁺
OPIOID WITHDRAWAL	clonidine	Lucemyra

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
PAIN (NON-NARCOTIC ANALGESICS)	Any two of the following: celecoxib, diclofenac, diclofenac CR, diflunisal, etodolac, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclufenamate, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, piroxicam, sulindac, tolmetin	Cambia,⁺ Celebrex,⁺ Diclofenac Capsule 35mg⁺ (ABA), Indocin, Indomethacin Capsule 20mg (ABA), Lofena, Tivorbex, Vivlodex, Zipsor,⁺ Zorvolex⁺
	meloxicam capsules or tablets	Meloxicam Suspension
	naproxen	Naproxen Tablet 750mg ER (ABA)
	celecoxib AND tramadol	Seglentis⁺
PARKINSON'S	carbidopa-levodopa or carbidopa-levodopa ER	Rytary
	carbidopa-levodopa AND carbidopa-levodopa ODT	Dhivy⁺
	rasagiline AND selegiline	Xadago
	pramipexole IR/ER or ropinirole IR/ER	Neupro
	entacapone	Ongentys
PHOSPHATE BINDERS	Any two of the following: calcium carbonate, calcium acetate, lanthanum carbonate, sevelamer carbonate, sevelamer HCl, Velphoro	Auryxia⁺
	Any two of the following: calcium carbonate, calcium acetate, lanthanum carbonate, sevelamer carbonate, sevelamer HCl	Fosrenol, Phoslyra
PROSTATIC HYPERTROPHY (BPH)	Any two of the following: alfuzosin, doxazosin, silodosin, tamsulosin, terazosin	Cardura XL
ROSACEA	Any one of the following: azelaic acid gel, Finacea Foam, Soolantra	Epsolay,⁺ Finacea Gel, Noritate,⁺ Zilxi
	Any one of the following: metronidazole gel, Finacea Foam, Soolantra	Metrogel⁺
SEIZURES#	topiramate IR or topiramate sprinkle	Qudexy XR,⁺ Trokendi XR
	topiramate sprinkle	Eprontia⁺
	oxcarbazepine IR	Oxtellar XR⁺
	Any one of the following: lamotrigine IR, levetiracetam IR/ER, oxcarbazepine IR, topiramate IR	Briviact, Xcopri
	levetiracetam ER	Elepsia XR⁺
SKIN CONDITIONS (MISC.)	Any one of the following: topical corticosteroid, pramoxine-HC, pimecrolimus, tacrolimus	Eucrisa, Opzelura⁺
	fluorouracil cream or topical imiquimod cream 5%	diclofenac gel 3%, Picato

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
	fluorouracil cream AND topical imiquimod cream 5%	Klisyri
	imiquimod cream 5%	Zyclara ⁺
	tacrolimus ointment	Elidel , ⁺ Protopic
	Any three of the following: clocortolone cream, fluocinolone acetonide ointment, flurandrenolide ointment, fluticasone propionate cream, hydrocortisone valerate ointment, mometasone furoate cream/lotion/solution, triamcinolone cream/ointment, triamcinolone aerosol spray, calcipotriene-betamethasone suspension, Enstilar, Taclonex suspension	Sernivo
THYROID	levothyroxine tablets	Armour Thyroid, Levothyroxine Capsule ⁺ (ABA), Nature-Thyroid, Synthroid , ⁺ Thyquidity ⁺ , Tirosint , ⁺ Westhroid, WP Thyroid
ULCER/REFLUX	Any two of the following: dexlansoprazole, esomeprazole magnesium, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole, rabeprazole	Aciphex , ⁺ Dexlansoprazole Capsule ⁺ (ABA), Esomeprazole Strontium, First-Lansoprazole Suspension, First-Omeprazole Suspension, omeprazole/bicarbonate, ⁺ Prevacid , ⁺ Prilosec, Protonix , ⁺ Rabeprazole Sprinkle ⁺ (ABA), Zegerid ⁺
ULCERATIVE COLITIS	Apriso	Asacol HD , ⁺ Delzicol , ⁺ Lialda ⁺
VITAMINS/ MINERALS	Any one of the following: ferrous fumarate, ferrous gluconate, ferrous sulfate	Accrufer ⁺ , Feraheme, Monoferric

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2
GENERIC FIRST*	generic equivalent	Abilify, Aczone gel, Altace, Arimidex, Arthrotec, Atacand, Avapro, Avodart, Azopt, Brisdelle, Brovana, Bystolic, Canasa, Carbatrol, Cardizem LA, Carnitor, Cataflam, Catapres-TTS, Celexa, Cialis, Clarinex, Climara, Clobex, Cloderm, Colestid, Combigan, Coreg, Cortef, Cosopt, Cozaar, Delegestrogen, Depakote, Dilantin suspension, Epiduo, Estrace, Exforge, Fioricet, Flomax, Generess Fe, Golytely, Halog cream, Hyzaar, Imitrex, Inderal LA, Kenalog, Keppra, Klonopin, K-Tab, Lamictal, Lasix, Latisse, Loestrin, Lotrel, Lyrica, Maxalt, Micardis, Mobic, Nalfon, Natroba, Neurontin, Niaspan, Nitrostat, Nulytely, Ortho Micronor, Ortho-Novum, Paxil, Plaquenil, Plavix, Pentasa 500mg, Pred Forte, Prinivil, Prometrium, Questran, Ranexa, Relpax, Renagel, Restoril, Risperdal, Safyral, Seasonique, Sensipar, Seroquel, Silvadene, Skelaxin, Soma, Suboxone, Tamiflu, Tegretol, Tenormin, Tikosyn, Timoptic, Timoptic-XE, Timoptic OcuDose, Topamax, Topicart spray, Travatan Z, Tricor, Trileptil, Uceris, Valtrex, Vanadom, Vectical, Vesicare, Viibryd, Vigamox, Vimpat, Welchol, Xalatan, Yasmin, Zanaflex, Zestril, Zolof, Zonegran, Zovirax, Zyprexa

Step Therapy Medications (3 steps)*

If you have a prescription for any of the following Step 3 drugs, you will need to first try a Step 1 and a Step 2 drug(s) before the Step 3 drug is covered.

CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
CHOLESTEROL	Any one of the following: atorvastatin, fluvastatin/ER, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin	Livalo*	Zypitamag*
DIABETES	Any one of the following: metformin, metformin ER, metformin-glipizide, metformin-glyburide, metformin-pioglitazone	Farxiga or Xigduo XR AND Glyxambi, Jardiance, Synjardy, Synjardy XR or Trijardy XR	Invokamet, + Invokamet XR, + Invokana, + Qtern, + Steglatro, + Steglujan, + Segluromet*

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CONDITION	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
	Any one of the following: metformin, metformin ER, metformin-glipizide, metformin- glyburide, metformin- pioglitazone	Janumet, Janumet XR, or Januvia AND Jentadueto, Jentadueto XR, or Tradjenta	Alogliptin⁺(ABA), Alogliptin/Metformin⁺ (ABA), Alogliptin/ Pioglitazone⁺(ABA), Kazano,⁺ Kombiglyze XR,⁺ Nesina,⁺ Onglyza,⁺ Oseni⁺
GASTROINTESTINAL (MISC.)	polyethylene glycol or lactulose	Linzess	Motegrity, Trulance⁺
	polyethylene glycol or lactulose	Linzess, Movantik,⁺ or Symproic	Amitiza⁺, Lubiprostone⁺ (ABA)
	polyethylene glycol or lactulose	Movantik⁺ or Symproic	Relistor⁺

+ May be excluded from coverage. Check your benefit plan documents for excluded medications.

* The list of step therapy medications is subject to change without notice. Step therapy requirements may vary by benefit plan. Additional clinical programs, including quantity limits and prior authorization, may exist for the above medications which may affect your prescription drug coverage.

Grandfathering allowed on medications under this Condition. All other Conditions do not allow grandfathering.

ABA = Authorized Brand Alternative



If you have additional questions, please call customer service at 800-759-3203 or visit serveyourx.com.