



Pharmacy Management Practices

Protocols and Step Therapies are additional management procedures that are utilized when administering a pharmacy benefit. Sometimes a medication will require adherence to a certain Protocol or Step Therapy before it can be filled. Health Advantage's present Protocols and Step Therapies are industry standard and provide further assurance that medications are prescribed and dispensed in the most safe and clinically appropriate manner.

- **Time Interval Protocol**

Time Interval Protocols allow Health Advantage to specify how many courses of a therapy will be allowed in a given time frame.

- **Step Therapies**

Step Therapy Protocols allow Health Advantage to define a logical sequence of therapeutic alternatives. This procedure controls the use of certain drugs or classes based upon previous or current drug therapy.

- **Daily Allowable Consumption (DACON)**

This program consists of a series of dose/time therapy protocols. The DACON limits members at point of sale to no more than one tab per day of certain once daily dosed medications.

- **Request for Prior Authorization (Drug Exception)**

Health Advantage has worked hard to provide a comprehensive formulary to meet your needs. We are aware that in certain physician directed circumstances, the Formulary, Time Interval Protocols, and/or Step Therapies need special review based on your personal health history and present condition. This process allows the prescribing physicians to request a clinical review for an exception to the pharmaceutical management procedures.

Remember, an **approved** Prior Authorization (Drug Exception) for a prescription provides **coverage** of the medication by Health Advantage. While the Prior Authorization process allows for clarification of the circumstances necessitating an exception, it does not change your copay amount.