Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Express Scripts Prescription Formulary

Why do medications change formulary status?

Medications change formulary status annually with the start of the plan year. Changes occur once a year and are now set for the new plan year. Medications change formulary status due to changes in the marketplace. Each year new brand medications are approved by the FDA. Brand name patents also expire each year allowing less expensive alternatives become available. Formulary medications are selected based on clinical quality and cost effectiveness.

What is the difference between a preferred and a non-preferred medication?

Preferred (or formulary) medications are on the National Preferred Formulary and are proven to be effective and cost less than non-preferred medications. This list of medications is determined based on the advice of pharmacists and a group of independent doctors. The full formulary list can be obtained from the Express Scripts website (www.express-scripts.com) or by calling Express Scripts at 877-213-3867. Non-preferred (or non-formulary) medications are not on the plan’s list of recommended prescription drugs and may cost more.

Can Express Scripts help determine alternative medications?

Yes. Please contact Express Scripts at (877) 213-3867 for further assistance.

Can a non-formulary medication be available for a lesser copay?

Formulary medications are selected based on clinical quality and cost effectiveness. Some medications may be reviewable under the prior authorization process. Please have the physician call 800-417-8164 to initiate that process for non-preferred medications.