

Subject: Step Therapy Protocol

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Objective:

- I. To make all current medication step therapy criteria available to providers, members and the public upon request and on Tuality Health Alliance website. To also provide the procedure by which a provider may submit to THA the medical rationale for determining that a particular step therapy protocol is not appropriate for a particular patient based on the patient's medical condition and history.
- II. The goal of step therapy is to ensure that safe and cost effective medications are used, based on recognized treatment guidelines and well documented clinical studies.

Definition:

Step Therapy means a drug protocol in which the cost of a prescribed drug is reimbursed only if the patient has first tried a specified drug or series of drugs. In certain cases, THA requires a member to first try certain drugs to treat a condition or disease before we will pay for another drug for that condition.

Policy:

- I. All newly created or modified current medication step therapy protocol will be made easily accessible to providers and on Tuality Health Alliance website.
- II. Each step therapy protocol will include a listing of the drugs that must be tried before going to the next step.
- III. To provide the procedure by which a provider may submit to THA the medical rationale for determining that a particular step therapy protocol is not appropriate for a particular patient based on the patient's medical condition and history. The procedure will include the medical rationale statement required by THA. The medical provider should base the medical rationale for an exception from the step therapy protocol on the member's medical condition and history.
- IV. THA Case Management will delineate in the protocol the documentation required with the exception request to make a determination of appropriateness of the step therapy for that specific member.

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References:

House Bill 4013, Section 6
Oregon Laws 2014, Chapter 55, Section 6
Trillium Community Health Plan Step Therapy Protocol Availability

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