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# Pharmacy Benefits Management- Medical Advisory Panel- VISN Pharmacist Executives E<sub>z</sub> - MINUTES

## Drugs Added to the VA National Formulary WITHOUT Prior Authorization

- Simethicone liquid, oral

## Drugs Added to the VA National Formulary WITH Prior Authorization

- Fecal microbiota transplant, live (REBYOTA)
- Alirocumab PRALUENT and Evolocumab (REPATHA)
- Alpelisib PIQRAY oral tablets
- Elacestrant ORSERDU oral tablets
- Tofersen (QALSODY)

## Drugs Not Added to the VA National Formulary

- Roflumilast Cream (ZORYVE) in Plaque Psoriasis
- Tapinarof Cream (VTAMA) in Plaque Psoriasis
- Eflapegrastim injection (ROLVEDON)
- Bempedoic Acid +/- Ezetimibe (NEXLETOL/NEXLIZET)
- Inclisiran (LEQVIO)
- Ublituximab (BRIUMVI)

## Formulary Drugs with Prior Authorization Removed

- none

## Drugs Removed from the VA National Formulary

- Esomeprazole / Naproxen Tab EC
- Nicotine Inhaler (NICOTROL INHALER)

## Other Announcements

- **Biosimilar Policy Update:** Since the inception of biosimilar use within the VA, the VA Center for Medication Safety (VA MedSAFE) has been conducting robust safety surveillance and has also started to look at effectiveness of biosimilars with the VA population. The VA MedSAFE data supports that biosimilar use is safe and effective and no signals have been found to indicate that switching to biosimilars is problematic from a clinical perspective. After reviewing all available information, the National Formulary Committee determined that a policy change was supported, so from this point forward, biosimilars will be treated similar to generic drugs. All patients will be automatically converted from the branded drug to the contracted biosimilar once a national standardization contract is awarded, and the contracted product will be preferred for all new starts and existing patients. Only those patients who are approved on an individual basis with solid clinical justification (allergies to excipients, documented failure or intolerance to preferred biosimilar, etc.) via a non-formulary request will be allowed to continue on the branded product. After the initial launch of biosimilars, patients

should not be switched from branded products to any biosimilars until the time when a competitively bid national contract is awarded to avoid multiple switches.

- **Adalimumab-atto (AMJEVITA), -adbm (CYLTEZO), -adaz (HYRIMOZ), -bwwd (HADLIMA), -afzb (ABRILADA), -fkjp (HULIO), -aqvh (YUSIMRY), -aacf (IDACIO), and -aaty (YUFLYMA)** – AMJEVITA, the first biosimilar of adalimumab (HUMIRA), was previously reviewed in February 2023 after its US market launch. HUMIRA, AMJEVITA, CYLTEZO, HYRIMOZ, HADLIMA, ABRILADA, HULIO, YUSIMRY, IDACIO, and YUFLYMA will be competed for national contract. Patients should not be switched from HUMIRA to biosimilar agents until the time that the preferred nationally contracted item is available.
- Upadacitinib (RINVOQ) in Axial Spondyloarthritis Criteria
- Bezlotoxumab (ZINPLAVA) Criteria revision
- Naltrexone SA injection (VIVITROL) prior authorization requirement removed (i.e., PA-F → VANF) and criteria for use archived
- Atogepant (QULIPTA) Criteria for Use for chronic migraine prophylaxis added
- Eculizumab Criteria for Use revised for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH), neuromyelitis optica (NMO), myasthenia gravis (MG), and atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS)
- Zanubrutinib BRUKINSA CFU revision
- Ibrutinib IMBRUVICA CFU revision
- Lecanemab-irmb LEQEMBI CFU revision
- Weight Management Medications (WMM) Criteria for Use (CFU) revisions: Naltrexone Bupropion CONTRAVE, Orlistat, Phentermine Topiramate QSYMIA, Liraglutide SAXENDA, Semaglutide WEGOVY
- Weight Management Medications FAQ developed