



Western Physicians' Alliance



August 2011

New Formulary Program through Saint Mary's Health Plan

The Formulary Advantage Program

Effective July 15, 2011, several new drug classes have been added to the Saint Mary's Health Plan Formulary Advantage program:

1. Antidepressants
2. Antipsychotics
3. Blood pressure medications
4. Migraine medications
5. Nasal allergy agents
6. Osteoporosis treatment
7. Sleep aids
8. Testosterone replacement

Medications requiring Step Therapy will no longer be routinely covered and the member will be required to pay the full cost of the drug at the pharmacy. Members affected by this change have been informed of this new process and will be encouraged to either obtain a new prescription for a preferred alternative or have a Prior Authorization request submitted to Catalyst Rx for continued coverage of their non-preferred medication.

For an example of the SMHP member letter, please see our website.

Change in Growth Hormone Medications

Effective September 1, 2011, the Saint Mary's Health Plans' prescription drug plan, administered by Catalyst Rx, will implement a change in coverage for growth hormone medications (somatropin). At this time, non-preferred brand-name growth hormone medications other than Norditropin will no longer be covered and the member will be required to pay the full cost of the drug at the pharmacy. See our website, for a copy of the prescriber communication regarding this transition.

Increased Physician Involvement

A committee was recently convened in July to address and review these key initiatives. Committee members included: SMHP Medical Director, Steve Phillips, M.D., WPA Medical Director, Ron Smith, M.D., Robert Rand, M.D., Ritu Dixon, M.D., Majorie Uhalde, M.D., Tim Coughlin, M.D., Paul Smith, M.D., Jim Schaupp, D.O. and Jennifer Hornback, M.D. Their input is of great value and much appreciated.

Western Physicians' Alliance Announcements

Thank you for being a valued member of the Western Physicians' Alliance. Your membership provides you with access to a wide variety of services.

Orgill/Singer & Associates, in partnership with PIC Wisconsin and WPA, has created a member benefit program that will provide substantial discounts on your Medical Professional Liability insurance.

WPA members will receive up to 30% scheduled rating credits. These credits will be determined through the underwriting process and will consist of WPA membership, claims free years of practice, medical society membership and approved risk management participation.

PIC Wisconsin will accept all classes of physicians including coverage for their prior acts based on their merits as determined through the underwriting process.

PIC will provide onsite Risk Management

VALUE ADDED BENEFITS PROVIDED BY WESTERN PHYSICIANS' ALLIANCE AND ORGILL/SINGER & ASSOCIATES

Discounts on your Professional Liability insurance are available with your membership in the Alliance

Assessments upon request and subject to calendaring by risk managers as a value added benefit.

Group practices with 10 or more physicians will be eligible for group discounts or risk financing consideration as determined by underwriting.

PIC Wisconsin and Orgill/Singer will work with WPA in developing an affinity type program that provides for additional premium discounts based upon membership participation as it grows.

Orgill/Singer has high standards of integrity, professionalism and commitment to their clients and community. For additional information about Medical Professional Liability or any of your business or personal insurance needs, please contact Eric Springall or Christina Williams at (702) 796-9100.

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