

Drug wastage program for medical pharmacy drugs

To improve the quality of care for members, Security Health Plan partners with Prime Therapeutics on a program to help reduce drug waste. The goal of the program is to help provide the most efficient dosage for select drugs.

Why this matters: Vial dose rounding is a clinically supported practice recommended by the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA) and endorsed by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). It allows for small, clinically acceptable dose adjustments, typically within 10%, to align with available vial sizes, minimizing waste without compromising therapeutic effectiveness.

The goals of the drug waste program include:

- Reducing waste
- Assisting providers with inventory management
- Lowering the overall cost of health care
- Maintaining clinical effectiveness (as supported by NCCN guidelines)

How it works: When authorization is requested for a dose that could be further optimized, a recommendation to adjust dosages to the nearest vial size combination will be made. The online portal (or intake specialist if phoning in the prior authorization) will display the most efficient vial size that should be utilized.

Example for rounding of Avsola vial:

The full calculated dose for Avsola would have a loading dose of 510 and maintenance dose of 510. Before finalizing this authorization, this dose presents an opportunity to reduce the drug wastage based on the available vial sizes. A small (less than 10%) decrease in dose would reduce wasted medication, without compromising effectiveness.

The decreased suggested dose is:

Loading Amount (mg)	Maintenance Amount (mg)	Load Dose Pattern
500	500	interval: days 0, 14 and 42
	5 Vial(s) of 100	
Frequency (in days)		
56		

Approve

Yes, the provider agrees to use the recommended dose and agrees to use the most efficient vial combination suggested above.

Reject

No, provider wants to use the full calculated dose (before vial rounding) of 510 loading, and 510 maintenance.

Drugs currently in the program include:

HCPCS	Brand Name
J9264	Abraxane
J0791	Adakveo
J9042	Adcetris
J9305	Alimta
Q5126	Alymsys
J9035	Avastin
Q5121	Avsola
J9999	Avzivi
J9292	Axtle
J9358	Enhertu
J9055	Erbitux
J0223	Givlaari
J9355	Herceptin
Q5103	Inflectra
J9198	Infugem
J9043	Jevtana
J9354	Kadcyla
Q5107	Mvasi
J9264	Paclitaxel Albumin-Bound
J9177	Padcev
J9999	Pemetrexed
J9296	Pemetrexed
J9322	Pemetrexed
J9294	Pemetrexed

J9297	Pemetrexed
J9314	Pemetrexed
J9323	Pemetrexed
J9324	Pemrydi RTU
J0896	Reblozyl
J1745	Remicade
Q5104	Renflexis
Q5123	Riabni
J9312	Rituxan
Q5119	Ruxience
J1602	Simponi_ARIA
J3241	Tepezza
Q5115	Truxima
J9303	Vectibix
Q5129	Vegzelma
J9228	Yervoy
J9400	Zaltrap
Q5118	Zirabev

Your role is vital: Your participation is essential to the success of this program. By adopting vial rounding practices, you help ensure high-quality, cost-effective care for our members. If you have any questions or need support, please contact the Security Health Plan Pharmacy Team- shp.pharmacist@securityhealth.org .

Resources:

https://www.nccn.org/docs/default-source/clinical/order-templates/hopa.pdf?sfvrsn=3af91118_2