

## **Drugs excluded from coverage under the Medicare Part D program**

While Security Health Plan tries to make medicines available to patients at a cost they can afford, certain categories of drugs are always excluded from Medicare Part D coverage by federal law. That means your Security Health Medicare Advantage Part D plan does not cover them. Patients would need to pay out-of-pocket for these medications.

As referenced in Section 20.1 of Chapter 6 of the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual, Medicare Part D does not cover drugs, or their medical uses, which are excluded from coverage or otherwise restricted per section 1860D-2(e)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act. Those drugs include the following:

1. Drugs when used for anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain even if used for a non-cosmetic purpose like morbid obesity (examples include Wegovy®, Saxenda®, Zepbound®)
2. Drugs when used to promote fertility
3. Drugs when used for cosmetic purposes or to promote hair growth (examples include Retin-A®, Propecia® and their generic alternatives)
4. Drugs when used for the relief of cough and cold symptoms
5. Prescription vitamins and mineral products (examples include cyanocobalamin, ergocalciferol and folic acid), except for prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
6. Non-prescription drugs (also called over-the-counter drugs)
7. Drugs when used for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction, unless such drugs were used to treat a condition other than sexual or erectile dysfunction for which the drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (examples include tadalafil for BPH, tadalafil and sildenafil for PAH)

Some products have more than one FDA-approved indication, both an excluded and non-excluded Part D indication. In the case of weight loss drugs, Saxenda<sup>®</sup> and Zepbound<sup>®</sup> currently only have an indication for chronic weight management or obesity and will not be covered under a Part D plan.

Wegovy<sup>®</sup> now has an additional indication to reduce the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in adults with **established cardiovascular disease**. Therefore, Wegovy<sup>®</sup> could be covered for patients with prior history of myocardial infarction, stroke, peripheral arterial disease, or carotid artery stenosis but not for the sole diagnosis of obesity. Similarly, the other GLP-1 products (Ozempic<sup>®</sup>, Trulicity<sup>®</sup>, Mounjaro<sup>®</sup>, etc) could be covered for a diagnosis of Type II Diabetes Mellitus but not for a diagnosis of obesity alone.

Requests for excluded indications will be denied. This is a Medicare Part D coverage law, so an appeal will not change the outcome.