

Oncology biosimilars and other pharmacy preference/prior authorization updates for Jan. 1, 2020

Oncology biosimilar preferred

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, Security Health Plan will have several prior authorization updates to select oncology medications. Similar to generics, biosimilars create competition and are priced at a discount to the reference product. Since many patients pay a portion or all of a medical expense out of pocket, biosimilars represent an opportunity to lower the overall cost of care and direct savings for our patients. The following medications will require a trial, contraindication or intolerance to the biosimilar prior to approval of the brand product as of Jan. 1, 2020:

- MVASI[®] (bevacizumab-awwb) will be the preferred biosimilar product to Avastin[®] (bevacizumab).
- Kanjinti[®] (trastuzumab-anns) will be the preferred biosimilar product to Herceptin[®] (trastuzumab).
- Ruxience[®] (rituximab-pvvr) will be the preferred biosimilar product to Rituxan[®] (rituximab).

Other updates for Jan. 1, 2020:

- Leucovorin will be preferred over Fusilev[®] (levoleucovorin calcium) & Khapzory[®] (levoleucovorin).
- Belrapzo[®] (bendamustine hydrochloride) & Bendeka[®] (bendamustine hydrochloride) will be preferred over Treanda[®] (bendamustine hydrochloride).
- Kenalog[®] (triamcinolone) will be preferred over Zilretta[®] (triamcinolone)

Patients will be allowed to continue treatment with the non-preferred products that were authorized prior to Jan. 1, 2020, until the end of their authorization period. After the authorization expires, patients must switch to the preferred products indicated above, unless contraindicated.