

Medicare Part B step therapy program adds additional in-scope indications for certain previously targeted drugs

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) previously issued guidance that provides Medicare Advantage plans the option of applying step therapy for physician-administered Part B drugs in a way that lowers costs and improves the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Security Health Plan implemented step therapy requirements on May 1, 2019, for NEW starts of the following drugs:

- aflibercept (Eylea®), ranibizumab (Lucentis®) and pegaptanib (Macugen®) - with bevacizumab as the preferred drug
- epoetin alfa (Epogen®, Procrit®) - with epoetin alfa-epbx (Retacrit®) as the preferred drug.

Beginning on Oct. 1, 2019, the indications that are considered in-scope for the aflibercept (Eylea®), ranibizumab (Lucentis®) and pegaptanib (Macugen®) category will include:

- age-related macular degeneration (AMD)
- diabetic macular edema (DME)
- retinal vein occlusion (RVO)
- diabetic retinopathy (DR)

Implementation will continue to be for new starts only, meaning no beneficiaries currently receiving eligible step therapy drugs under part B will have to change their drug. Step therapy prior authorization is managed through Security Health Plan's specialty pharmacy medication partner, Magellan. Call 1-800-424-8243; website spcustomer.magellanprovider.com

These indication requirements apply to commercial lines of business as well.