



CareFirst Broker Flash

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For additional information or supplies, please contact your Broker Sales Representative.
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Market: Consumer Direct

2018 Formulary and Benefit Tier Changes for Consumer Direct ACA

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (CareFirst) will implement changes to its formulary for all Consumer Direct ACA plans on January 1, 2018. The 2018 pharmacy changes will help CareFirst better manage rising pharmacy costs, in particular, specialty drug spend.

Grandfathered business is not impacted by these changes.

What are the changes?

Consumer Direct will move to the CareFirst Exchange Formulary with a 5-Tier benefit structure that breaks out tiers for preferred and non-preferred specialty drugs. The CareFirst Exchange Formulary will meet all federal benchmark requirements.

What is the impact?

Transitioning to the CareFirst Exchange Formulary may have drugs that move to a different tier or be excluded (not covered on the formulary). Changes will also be made to the prescription guideline requirements, which include prior authorization, step therapy and quantity limits. There is an exception process if a member needs an excluded drug to be covered for medical-necessity reasons.

Members who are negatively impacted by a formulary or tier change will be notified by letter about covered alternatives 30 days prior to their effective date.

2018 Formulary List

The comprehensive 2018 CareFirst Exchange Formulary list, including tier changes, is now available at carefirst.com/acarx.

Should you have any questions, please contact your broker sales representative.

Vickie S. Cosby
Vice President, Consumer Direct Sales, Distribution and Communications