

## Step Therapy Program

Effective: March 1, 2025

FirstCarolinaCare requires “Step Therapy” for certain prescription drugs.

In most cases, step therapy requires that you try certain medication(s) (preferred medications in the same class, first-line treatments or less costly alternatives that are also recommended for your condition) before a step therapy “non-preferred” medication would be covered.

Example: Drug A might only be covered if a member has tried Drug B with a poor response or intolerable side effects. A trial of Drug A may not be required if there is a medical reason that a member is unable to try Drug A or cannot change from current therapy with Drug B.

For an exception to the step therapy program or to request a written copy of the coverage criteria, please contact FirstCarolinaCare Member Services at (855) 291-9336 for TTY users, 711, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., local time, seven days a week. From April 1 – September 30 voicemail will be used on weekends and holidays.

This list is subject to change.

FirstCarolinaCare Insurance Company's plans are HMO and PPO plans with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in a FirstCarolinaCare Insurance Company plan depends on contract renewal.

This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments and restrictions may apply. Benefits and copayments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year.

This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact our Member Services number at (855) 291-9336 for additional information. (TTY users should call 711.) Hours are from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., local time, seven days a week. From April 1 – September 30, voicemail will be used on weekends and holidays.

Esta información está disponible sin cargo en otros idiomas. Para obtener información adicional, llame al Departamento de Servicios para los Miembros al (855) 291-9336. (Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 711). Nuestro horario de atención es de 8:00 a.m. a 8:00 p.m., horario local, los 7 días de la semana. Desde el 1.º de abril hasta el 30 de septiembre, puede dejar un mensaje de voz los fines de semana y feriados.

## ANTIDEPRESSANTS

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### Products Affected

- Auvelity
- Fetzima
- Fetzima Titration Pack
- Trintellix
- Venlafaxine Besylate Er

### Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of generic antidepressant
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# ANTIFUNGAL TOPICAL

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## Products Affected

- Naftifine Hcl
- Naftifine Hydrochloride CREA

## Details

<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of a generic topical antifungal (e.g. ciclopirox, clotrimazole, econazole, ketoconazole).
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# APTIOM

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## Products Affected

- Aptiom

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of Oxcarbazepine
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# ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS

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## Products Affected

- Abilify Maintena
- Abilify Mycite Maintenance Kit
- Abilify Mycite Starter Kit
- Aristada
- Aristada Initio
- Caplyta
- Fanapt
- Fanapt Titration Pack
- Invega Hafyera
- Invega Sustenna
- Invega Trinza
- Lybalvi
- Paliperidone Er
- Perseris
- Rexulti
- Risperdal Consta
- Secuado
- Vraylar
- Ziprasidone Mesylate
- Zyprexa Relprevv

## Details

<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of one of the following atypical antipsychotic: ( aripiprazole, asenapine, lurasidone, olanzapine, quetiapine fumarate, risperidone, oral ziprasidone).
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# BRIVIACT

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## Products Affected

- Briviact

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim with a generic anti-seizure medication
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# DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASE-4 (DPP4) ENZYME INHIBITORS

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## Products Affected

- Alogliptin
- Alogliptin/metformin Hcl
- Alogliptin/metformin Hydrochloride
- Alogliptin/pioglitazone TABS  
12.5MG; 30MG, 25MG; 15MG,  
25MG; 30MG, 25MG; 45MG
- Janumet
- Janumet Xr
- Januvia
- Jentadueto
- Jentadueto Xr
- Nesina
- Oseni TABS 12.5MG; 30MG, 25MG;  
15MG, 25MG; 30MG, 25MG; 45MG
- Tradjenta

## Details

<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim for metformin (generic Glucophage), metformin oral solution, metformin ER or glipizide/metformin (generic Metaglip), glipizide, glipizide ER/XL, glimepiride, pioglitazone/metformin (generic Actoplus Met), pioglitazone/glimepiride (generic Duetact), or a formulary insulin within the past 120 days
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# ELEPSIA XR

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## Products Affected

- Elepsia Xr

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim for levetiracetam
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# NOVOLOG

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## Products Affected

- Novolog
- Novolog Flexpen
- Novolog Flexpen Relion
- Novolog MIX 70/30
- Novolog MIX 70/30 Prefilled Flexpen
- Novolog MIX 70/30 Prefilled Flexpen Relion
- Novolog MIX 70/30 Relion
- Novolog Penfill
- Novolog Relion

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of Humalog or Humalog Mix
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# ONGENTYS

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## Products Affected

- Ongentys

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Previous paid claim of entacopone tab 200mg
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# ROFLUMILAST

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## Products Affected

- Roflumilast

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior use of inhaled corticosteroid or ICS combo agent
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# SPRITAM

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## Products Affected

- Spritam

## Details

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Criteria	Prior paid claim for levetiracetam
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# TRAMADOL ER

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## Products Affected

- Tramadol Hcl Er CP24 100MG, 200MG, 300MG
- Tramadol Hcl Er TB24
- Tramadol Hydrochloride Er

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of tramadol immediate release
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# XULTOPHY

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## Products Affected

- Xultophy 100/3.6

## Details

Criteria	Prior paid claim for glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) or basal insulin
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# ZONISADE SUSPENSION

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## Products Affected

- Zonisade

## Details

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<b>Criteria</b>	Prior paid claim of generic zonisamide capsule.
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