



Benefits Sub-Committee Update

February 24, 2020

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Agenda



Legally Required Plan Design Changes
(effective 7/1/2020)



Formulary Change Awareness



Plan Exception Requests & Financial
Impact



ER Observation Hold vs Inpatient
Admission

Legally Required Plan Design Changes

Changes taking effect on **July 1, 2020:**

- Erythromycin 0.5% ophthalmologic ointment availability
 - Prevention of ophthalmic bacterial infection (*gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum*)
 - Required to offer to Plan members <1 year of age
 - \$0 Copay
 - Overall average cost less than \$20 per prescription

Formulary Change Awareness

- Pharmacy Benefit Dimensions
 - NY 44 Benefits Plan Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM)
 - www.pbdrx.com
 - 1.888.878.9172
 - Formulary information changes frequently. What's the most efficient way to keep up with formulary changes as they are released?

Plan Exception Requests & Financial Impact

The contributions charged are determined by the benefits that have been designed



Plan Exception Requests & Financial Impact

When asked to pay for exceptions to these designs, it causes an imbalance of cost vs claims



ER Observation vs Inpatient Admission ⊕

A patient's final status is assigned on how the hospital stay ended, not how it started. The status is based on the level of care needed.

What is the difference between a hold versus an admission?

Observation Hold

- Observation status is for conditions which can generally be treated in 48 hours or less. This allows evaluation and to render medically necessary services if diagnosis/treatment is not expected to exceed 48 hours.
- Observation holds are still covered by an emergency room copay.

Inpatient Admission

- A patient cannot be admitted unless they meet the medical criteria for an admission.
- The copay is waived when a hospital inpatient admission occurs.



Questions?
Feedback?
Comments?