

PROVIDER Update



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Medication Trend Updates and Drug List/Formulary Changes – 3rd Quarter 2026

Review drug list, formulary and drug benefit changes, and medication safety issues

Stay up to date with information about:

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) removal of black box warnings on menopausal hormone therapy.
- Changes to the Health Net* Commercial Drug Lists, Medi-Cal medication benefits and Medicare Part D Formulary for the third quarter of 2026.

FDA removal of black box warnings on menopausal hormone therapy

The FDA has approved labeling updates for six menopausal hormone therapy (traditionally referred to as HRT for hormone replacement therapy) products to better reflect current evidence on safety risks. As part of these changes, statements regarding cardiovascular disease, breast cancer and probable dementia were removed from the boxed warning — the FDA’s most prominent safety warning — while related risk information remains elsewhere in the labeling.

The FDA initiated the removal of these warnings in November 2025, following a comprehensive review of scientific literature and the first major reassessment of HRT safety in more than two decades. Despite the removal, the warning for endometrial cancer will remain on systemic estrogen-alone therapies.

According to the FDA, 29 drug companies have submitted proposed labeling changes. This first batch of six products with approved labeling changes includes products from each of the four categories of HRT for menopausal women:

- Systemic combination therapy (estradiol and progesterone):
 - Bijuva® (Mayne Pharma)
- Systemic estrogen-alone therapy:
 - estradiol gel (Divigel®; Vertical Pharmaceuticals),
 - synthetic conjugated estrogens, A (Cenestin®; Teva Pharmaceuticals), and

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO CALIFORNIA PROVIDERS:

- Physicians and Practitioners
- Participating Physician Groups
- Behavioral Health Providers

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- IFP
 - Ambetter HMO
 - Ambetter PPO
- Employer Group
 - HMO/POS
 - PPO
- Medicare Advantage (HMO) (Wellcare By Health Net)
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 - Amador
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 - Inyo
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 - Mono
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PROVIDER SERVICES

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Ambetter from Health Net IFP

Ambetter PPO – 844-463-8188

Ambetter HMO – 888-926-2164

Health Net Employer Group HMO, POS & PPO – 800-641-7761

Medicare (individual & employer group) (Wellcare By Health Net) – 800-929-9224

Medicare Supplement – 800-641-7761

Medi-Cal (including CS and ECM providers) – 800-675-6110

PROVIDER PORTAL

provider.healthnetcalifornia.com

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- synthetic conjugated estrogens, B (Enjuvia®; Teva Pharmaceuticals)
- Systemic progestogen-alone therapy:
 - progesterone, USP (Prometrium®; Abbott Laboratories), for women with a uterus using systemic estrogen
- Topical vaginal estrogen therapy:
 - estradiol vaginal ring (Estring®; Pfizer)

The FDA added that the update ensures women have clear, science-based information about HRT, supporting informed decisions about their treatment plan for menopause symptoms.

Source: www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-labeling-changes-menopausal-hormone-therapy-products

Changes to the Commercial, Medi-Cal and Medicare Part D Drug Lists/Formulary and Medication Benefits

The Pharmacy Advisory Committee is made up of doctors, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. Every quarter, the committee reviews medications on the drug lists for Commercial members, Medi-Cal medication benefits and Medicare Part D Formulary. They decide which medications stay on the same tier and which ones move to a different tier.

A table showing some of the recent changes for **Q3 2026** is available on **pages 3 and 4**. It includes:

- Medication names.
- Their updated formulary status.
- Formulary alternative options.
- Notes or comments.

You can find the full lists for Commercial, Medi-Cal and Medicare Part D Drug Lists/Formularies on the Pharmacy Information for Providers page at <https://bit.ly/PharmacyInformationforProviders>.

For medical medication benefits, refer to the *Outpatient Pharmaceuticals (Submitted Under Medical Benefit)* section in the prior authorization lists at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations>.

Pharmacy help lines

For questions about updates to the Health Net Commercial and Medi-Cal Drug Lists or Medicare Part D Formulary, please contact the appropriate pharmacy phone number listed below.

Product	Phone number	Fax number
Pharmacy Benefit (Medi-Cal Rx)	800-977-2273	800-869-4325
Medical Benefit Drugs (Medi-Cal)	800-867-6564, option #2	833-953-3436
Commercial Pharmacy Services	800-548-5524, option #2	800-314-6223
Medicare Pharmacy Service Center	800-867-6564, option #1	800-977-8226

Need help? Contact us

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the Health Net Provider Services Center by email at provider_services@healthnet.com, by phone or through the Health Net provider portal as listed in the right-hand column on page 1.

Health Net Commercial Drug Lists, Medicare Part D Formulary and Medi-Cal medication benefit changes

Note: The information in the tables is subject to change. For the most current details, please refer to the prior authorization lists at <https://bit.ly/HealthNetPriorAuthorizations>.

Medication	Status			Health Net Formulary Alternative(s)			Comments
	Commercial Tier 3 plan (Tier 4 plan)	Medicare Part D ¹	Medi-Cal	Commercial (Tier 1 or 2)	Medicare Part D Value ¹	Medi-Cal	
Topical preparation							
Adquey™ (difamilast) ointment	NF	NF	Carved out to state	Topical corticosteroids: augmented betamethasone, clobetasol propionate Non-steroidal topical: tacrolimus, pimecrolimus	Topical corticosteroids: augmented betamethasone, clobetasol propionate	Carved out to state	A phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitor indicated for the topical treatment of adults and pediatric patients ages 2 and older with mild to moderate atopic dermatitis.
Injectable preparation							
Awikli® (insulin icodec-abae) prefilled pen	NF	NF	Carved out to state	Long-acting insulin: Lantus®, Tresiba®, Toujeo®	Long-acting insulin: Lantus	Carved out to state	A long-acting human insulin analog indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus.

¹ Medicare Part D: Wellcare CalViva Health Dual Align (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Classic (PDP), Wellcare Dual Align (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Dual Liberty (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Giveback (HMO), Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Low Premium (HMO), Wellcare Medicare Rx Value Plus (PDP), Wellcare Premium Ultra (HMO), Wellcare Simple (HMO), Wellcare Simple Focus (HMO), Wellcare Simple Ruby (HMO), Wellcare Specialty Simple (HMO C-SNP), Wellcare Specialty Simple Focus (HMO C-SNP), Wellcare Value Script (PDP)

NF indicates nonformulary; NP indicates nonpreferred. These medications require member-specific medical reasons why formulary medications cannot be considered. Requests are reviewed via Health Net's prior authorization process.

Health Net Commercial Drug Lists, Medicare Part D Formulary and Medi-Cal medication benefit changes, *continued*

Medication	Status			Health Net Formulary Alternative(s)			Comments
	Commercial Tier 3 plan (Tier 4 plan)	Medicare Part D ¹	Medi-Cal	Commercial (Tier 1 or 2)	Medicare Part D Value ¹	Medi-Cal	
Injectable preparation							
Otarmeni™ (lunsotogene parvec-cwha) suspension, for intracochlear infusion	Medical benefit ²	Medical benefit ²	Medical benefit ²				An adeno-associated virus vector-based gene therapy indicated for the treatment of pediatric and adult patients with severe-to-profound and profound sensorineural hearing loss (any frequency > 90 dB HL) associated with molecularly confirmed biallelic variants in the OTOF gene, preserved outer hair cell function, and no prior cochlear implant in the same ear.
Yuwiwel® (navepegritide) single-dose vial	Medical benefit ²	Medical benefit ²	Medical benefit ²				A C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP) analog indicated to increase linear growth in pediatric patients ages 2 and older with achondroplasia with open epiphyses.
Zycubo® (copper histidinate) single-dose vial	Medical benefit ²	Medical benefit ²	Medical benefit ²				A copper replacement product indicated for the treatment of Menkes disease in pediatric patients.

¹ Medicare Part D: Wellcare CalViva Health Dual Align (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Classic (PDP), Wellcare Dual Align (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Dual Liberty (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Giveback (HMO), Wellcare Health Net Dual Align (HMO D-SNP), Wellcare Low Premium (HMO), Wellcare Medicare Rx Value Plus (PDP), Wellcare Premium Ultra (HMO), Wellcare Simple (HMO), Wellcare Simple Focus (HMO), Wellcare Simple Ruby (HMO), Wellcare Specialty Simple (HMO C-SNP), Wellcare Specialty Simple Focus (HMO C-SNP), Wellcare Value Script (PDP).

² Prior authorization is required to verify that the member is eligible and satisfies clinical protocols to ensure appropriate use of the medication.

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