

### Talk To Your Doctor and Pharmacist

When you get your prescription filled, your pharmacist may offer generic alternatives. If not, ask your doctor and pharmacist:

- Is there a generic option that's right for my condition?
- Are there potential side effects if I change medications?

### Learn More

To find out more about your plan's Prior Authorization program, visit [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com). Compare prices (generic vs. brand), learn about easy Home Delivery from the Express Scripts Pharmacy, read educational health information, find your nearest participating pharmacy and more.



## Prior Authorization

The most healthcare  
for your dollars



# Prior Authorization



## The Right Medications at the Right Cost

Prescription drugs can protect your family's health, but they are getting more expensive every year. You have an advantage. Your healthcare plan has chosen Express Scripts to administer your prescription benefit.

At Express Scripts, our mission is to make the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable. We work closely with health plans to offer safe, effective medications and help you save money. Of the 50 million members we currently serve, many are already saving through **Prior Authorization**.

Your plan's Prior Authorization program is designed to help keep prescription drugs affordable while providing the medicine you need.

## Savings and Safety

The Prior Authorization program is built on the advice of independent doctors, pharmacists and other licensed professionals who review the latest research on prescription drugs and look for ways you can save. They recommend medications that have been tested and approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to be safe and effective — and that are cost effective as well. These recommended drugs are covered by your plan.

Prior Authorization doesn't deny you prescription drug treatment; it simply makes sure you get the treatment you need in the most cost-effective way.

## Your Doctor's Advice

Some drugs need approval — or Prior Authorization — before your plan will cover them. When you receive a prescription for one of these drugs, your personal medical professionals are consulted. This works like a health plan that consults your doctor before covering certain medical tests. Only your own doctor (or in some cases, your pharmacist) can provide the information needed to determine if a drug can be covered.

## Your Dollars Count

Prescription drugs that need approval are flagged in the pharmacy's computer with a message saying your prescription needs Prior Authorization. This simply means that more information is needed to determine if your plan can cover the drug.

In the next step, your doctor (or sometimes your pharmacist) calls the Express Scripts Prior Authorization phone line — open 24 hours a day, every day. During the call, an Express Scripts agent checks your plan's guidelines.

For example, a medicine may need Prior Authorization because it can be used for more than one purpose: It's a medical treatment for skin conditions, but it can also be used cosmetically to reduce wrinkles. Your plan would cover this prescription drug only for medical conditions. If it's used for other reasons, your plan's costs increase — and so do your copayments.

When your plan covers your medication, it helps keep your copayments affordable. If the medication is not covered, your doctor could write a new prescription for a covered drug. Or, you can get the original prescription filled by paying full price at your retail pharmacy.