

Utilization Management Strategies

As the pharmaceutical landscape continues to change and prescription costs rise, clients are looking for ways to manage pharmacy spend while keeping members healthy.

OptumRx[®] offers utilization management programs that help ensure appropriate medication use and lower overall health care costs.

Working together to boost safety and savings

At OptumRx, we understand the challenges clients face as they try to balance prescription benefit costs with providing members access to affordable, clinically proven medications.

That's why we offer a full suite of utilization management strategies that work together to help ensure members receive clinically effective medications that also make the best use of their pharmacy benefit dollar.

Prior Authorization



OptumRx recommends pre-approval for certain medications before they are covered. This process, known as Prior Authorization, promotes safe and effective medication use. In turn, this helps reduce inappropriate use of medications and keeps pharmacy plan costs in check.

Step Therapy



Step Therapy requires members to try preferred medications as the initial step in treatment before certain non-preferred medications are covered. Preferred medications included in the program are widely recognized as clinically safe and effective. Step Therapy can lower both client and member costs while still providing access to non-preferred medications.

Quantity Limits



Quantity Limits help ensure safe and appropriate dosing and avoid dangerous drug interactions. Our committee of independent doctors and pharmacists meets regularly to review medications, recommend Quantity Limit guidelines and discuss coverage levels. This helps ensure members get the best results from their medication therapy, while controlling overall health care costs.

Highly Managed Benefit Design

For clients looking to promote quality and maximize savings opportunities, Highly Managed plans are an effective option. This benefit design incorporates our full suite of utilization management programs. Prior Authorization, Step Therapy and Quantity Limit edits are all applied to non-preferred brand medications. Members are guided to therapeutically equivalent, more affordable options that leverage additional savings opportunities through manufacturers. This helps both clients and members get the most value from their pharmacy benefit.

OptumRx offers three commercial plan designs — Covered, Managed and Highly Managed — to help meet the needs of various clients, depending on their unique goals and benefit strategies.

More value through improved safety and savings

Our full suite of utilization management strategies supports clinical decisions that can result in healthier members, as well as plan savings that continue to grow.

	Covered	Managed	Highly Managed
3-tier plan required		✓	✓
Minimum \$10 copay differential		✓	✓
UM flexibility	✓	✓	
Full suite of UMs			✓
Savings potential	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$
Adding exclusions will increase savings potential			

To learn more about our utilization management strategies, contact your OptumRx representative.

Focused UM Program

For clients not wanting to adopt the full suite of utilization management strategies, the Focused UM Program can be added to Covered or Managed plans. This helps reduce costs and maintain affordable medication access by driving the use of therapeutically equivalent, more affordable options.



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OptumRx specializes in the delivery, clinical management and affordability of prescription medications and consumer health products. We are an Optum™ company — a leading provider of integrated health services. Learn more at optum.com.

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