



Independence Edge

July 20, 2017

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New medications added to the MCES Program – Requires preapproval of treatment settings

Independence is always working to help lower health care expenses for our customers and we are announcing new additions to our existing program with cost savings at the heart of it.

Effective September 1, 2017, seven medications that are covered under the medical benefit will be added to the *Most Cost-Effective Setting* (MCES) Program. This change means that these expensive and highly utilized medications will be covered for commercial members only when they are administered in the setting approved by Independence during precertification review:

- Actemra[®] (tocilizumab)
- Entyvio[®] (vedolizumab)
- Inflectra[®] (infliximab-dyyb)
- Orencia[®] (abatacept)

- Renflexis[®] (infliximab-abda)
- Simponi Aria[®] (golimumab)

Independence wants to ensure that our members receive injectable/infusion medications in a setting that is both safe and cost-effective. The hospital outpatient facility is typically the most expensive setting for drug administration. The most cost-effective settings for the administration of these medications are:

- A physician's office
- The member's home, where the medication is administered by a home infusion provider
- An ambulatory (freestanding) infusion suite, not owned by a hospital or health system

Independence will consider provider requests for these medications to be administered in a hospital outpatient facility for members who are receiving their initial therapeutic dose or if their condition requires intensive monitoring and care.

Member and Group Outreach

This change only impacts adult members 18 years of age and older who are receiving these medications in a setting that submits claims to Independence as a hospital outpatient facility. We will send a targeted [mailing](#) to administrators of impacted groups on July 26. Member [letters](#) will be sent on an ongoing basis during the next six months, starting July 28. Members should receive their letter approximately 30 days prior to the expiration date of their current precertification. This will give members time to discuss future treatment options with their doctors.

Members who currently receive treatment in the hospital outpatient facility will be able to receive their medications in that setting until their precertification expires. During their next precertification review, Independence will evaluate the setting requested by their provider and make a coverage determination.

New requests for adult members to receive these medications on or after September 1, 2017, will be subject to precertification review for both indication and setting.

Please note: Members ages 17 and younger are currently eligible to receive treatment with these seven medications in any setting. However, requests for these members will continue to require precertification review for indication, to ensure that the member meets the coverage criteria in our medical policy.

About the MCES Program

Established in 2012, the MCES Program was designed to review the requested treatment settings for certain medications for members enrolled in our commercial medical products. The main goal is to manage the total cost of care for our members and groups by ensuring each member meets the coverage criteria in our medical policy, and that the requested treatment setting is both safe and cost-effective.

Please visit the [Provider News Center](#) to learn more about the MCES Program, including the complete list of medications on the program.

Please contact your Brown & Brown broker consultant if you have any questions.

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