



**DATE** SEPTEMBER 2011  
**ISSUE** 1

### HELPFUL NUMBERS FOR PROVIDERS

Passport Health Plan  
PerformRx: (800) 578-0898  
Bin: 600428

Processor control: 02920000  
Passport Advantage  
PerformRx: (866) 533-5490  
Bin: 012353

Processor control: 03650000  
Injectables: (866) 533-5490,  
options 2,2,5

### HELPFUL NUMBERS FOR MEMBERS

Passport Health Plan  
1-800-578-0603, option #2  
Passport Advantage  
1-800-578-0603, option #1

### WEBSITE

[www.passporthealthplan.com](http://www.passporthealthplan.com)

### NEW IN THIS ISSUE

- 2011 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Reimbursement for Pharmacies
- PHP OTC List Updated
- Formulary Updates
- Pharmacy Tips and Reminders:
  - PHP 90-Day Supply at Retail Pharmacy FAQs
  - Harmful Drug-Disease Interactions in the Elderly
- Recent FDA Advisories
- P&T Committee Review

## 2011 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Reimbursement for Pharmacies

Effective September 1, 2011, Passport Health Plan (PHP) and Passport Advantage (PAD) will reimburse pharmacies for administration of the injectable seasonal flu vaccine to certain members. Eligible PHP and PAD members have a \$0 copay for the flu vaccine.

For more information about reimbursement and NDC codes, please view our recent pharmacy communication online at [www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy](http://www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy).

## Updated Passport Health Plan (PHP) OTC Drug List Now Available

Please visit [www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy](http://www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy) to view the recently-updated PHP Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug List for pharmacies and providers.

## Formulary Updates

- **Passport Advantage (PAD):**  
PAD formulary updates may be found at [www.passportadvantage.org/pharmacy](http://www.passportadvantage.org/pharmacy).
- **Passport Health Plan (PHP):**  
The following changes will occur to the PHP Preferred Drug Listing:
  - **ICD-9 Updates for Atypical Antipsychotics**  
The ICD-9 list of approved diagnoses for atypical antipsychotics has been updated. Please visit the PHP website, [www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy](http://www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy), for the updated listing.

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*All medications may be subject to edits to limit quantities dispensed, day's supply, and drug-drug interactions at the point of service. Appropriate diagnosis, drug therapy length and approved indications will be used in determining medical necessity.*

*Committee decisions are based upon relevant medical literature that is evidence based, peer reviewed, and English language based, using appropriate study designs.*

*Price(s) listed are AWP from First Data Bank as of 01-20-2006. These are displayed as a reference only and intended to be a learning tool for providers for the costs of therapy prescribed for a one-month period unless otherwise indicated. Prices are calculated from AWP using the lower dose strengths applicable to therapy for 30-day supply calculated.*

- **All PHP providers must adhere to prior authorization and/or step therapy rules for the following drugs:**
  - Alprazolam ODT
  - Carbatrol
  - Clonazepam rapid disintegrating tablets
  - Cymbalta
  - Effexor XR
  - Intuniv
  - Lexapro
  - Luvox
  - Metadate CD
  - Methylin
  - Nefazodone
  - Provigil
  
- **Generic Drug Additions**
  - Levofloxacin (generic Levaquin) 250mg, 500mg, 750mg tablets
  - Fondaparinux (generic Arixtra) 2.5mg/0.5ml, 5mg/0.4ml, 7.5mg/0.6mg, 10mg/0.8ml syringe (limited to a 10-day supply at point-of-sale)
  - Methylphenidate (generic Concerta) 18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54 mg capsules
  - Letrozole (generic Femara) 2.5mg tablet
  - Latanoprost (generic Xalatan) 0.005% eye drops
  - Disulfiram (generic Antabuse) 250mg, 500mg
  
- **Quantity Limit Updates**
  - Levaquin: quantity limit changed to 14 tablets per 30 days
  - Morphine Sulfate ER 15mg, 30mg, 60mg, and 100mg: quantity limit changed to 90 tablets per 30 days
  
- **Additional formulary updates may be found in the table on page 5.**

## Pharmacy Tips and Reminders

### PHP 90-Day Supply at Retail Pharmacy - FAQs:

**Q:** How does a Passport Health Plan (PHP) member qualify for a 90-day supply?

**A:** The member must have received one of the specified drugs for 90 or more days in the previous 180 days.

**Q:** If the provider writes a prescription for 30 days with 11 refills, will I be cited on an audit if I fill the medication for a 90-day supply?

**A:** If the member has a 90-day supply available and qualifies for the program, the claim will process at the point of sale. You will not be penalized on an audit.

**Q:** The prescriber does not want the member to receive more than a 30-day supply at a time. What should I do?

**A:** If the prescriber does not believe it is appropriate to give the member a 90-day supply of medication or if the member currently resides in a long term care facility, please use authorization code 303030 to allow for a 12 month override of the requirement.

- Q.** If a member was on lisinopril 5 mg in June and July but was increased to 10 mg in August, will they qualify for the program?
- A.** A member needs to be stabilized on one strength of a specified drug before qualifying for the program.
- Q.** Are the 90 days in six months consecutive? For instance, if the member had been on Metformin 500mg in February but had a break in March and then went back on treatment in May and June, will that member qualify for the program?
- A.** Yes, the member would qualify. The 90 days do not have to be consecutive.

For more details and a listing of medications included in the 90-day program, please view our recent pharmacy communication online at [www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy](http://www.passporthealthplan.com/pharmacy).

## Harmful Drug-Disease Interactions in the Elderly

Medication-related problems are a significant public health issue within the healthcare system. The elderly are especially vulnerable to medication-related problems due to a higher prevalence of chronic health conditions and increased utilization of prescription medications. The prescribing of certain medications in the elderly is associated with an increased risk of harmful side effects, hospitalization, increased length of illness, nursing home placement, and falls and fractures that can cause further physical, functional and social decline.

One study found that 32 percent of patients 65 or older who visit an emergency department were taking at least one potentially inappropriate medication. Avoiding certain drugs in the elderly, may minimize the risk of harm. The table below outlines some drug-disease combinations to avoid in the elderly.

Underlying Disease/ Condition	Medication to Avoid	Concern
<b>History of Falls</b>	Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)	Strong anticholinergic (risk of urinary retention, constipation, blurred vision, confusion, falls) and sedative properties.
	Antipsychotics	Cognitive impairment, confusion, sedation
	Sedative Hypnotics	Increased risk of falls and fractures from sedation
<b>Dementia</b>	Antipsychotics	Patients with dementia related psychosis treated with antipsychotics are at an increased risk of mortality
	Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCAs)	Anticholinergic effects contributing to confusion and cognitive impairment
	Anticholinergic agents (antiemetics; Parkinson agents; antispasmodics; antihistamines; skeletal muscle relaxants; and urinary antispasmodics)	Anticholinergic effects contributing to confusion and cognitive impairment
<b>Chronic Renal Failure</b>	NSAIDs, Cox-2 Inhibitors	Reversible renal insufficiency, sodium and water retention, hyperkalemia, hypertension, acute renal failure, worsening of chronic kidney disease and interstitial nephritis.

### References:

*State of Health Care Quality Report for quality improvement data from more than 1,000 health plans in HEDIS year 2010.*

*Fick DM, Cooper JW, Wade WE, Waller JL, Maclean JR, Beers MH. Updating the Beers Criteria for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults. Arch Intern Med. 2003;163:2716-2724.*

*Davis M, Srivastava M. Demographics, assessment and management of pain in the elderly. Drugs and Aging 2003;20(1):23-57.*

## Changes to the Preferred Bayer Diabetic Products

The following Bayer products are no longer on the formularies for Passport Health Plan and Passport Advantage.

(Please note, this ONLY affects these specific NDCs. The other versions of these products will remain on the formulary.)

Invalid NDC	Description	Alternative NDCs	Description
00193-7070-25	Contour Strips 25	00193-7080-50	Contour 50 count
00193-3610-50	Autodisc 50	00193-7090-21	Contour 100 count
00193-3627-21	Autodisc 100	00193-1465-50	Breeze 2 (50 count)
00193-1460-01	Breeze 2 Pink Kit	00193-1466-21	Breeze 2 (100 count)
00193-1461-01	Breeze 2 Purple Kit	00193-1440-01	Breeze 2 Kit
		00193-1440-01	Breeze 2 Kit

## Recent Federal Drug Administration (FDA) Advisories Affecting Network Pharmacies and Providers

The FDA recently issued the following advisories:

### 8.24.11 FDA Warns Against High-Dose Citalopram

Citing increased risk of cardiac arrhythmias and a lack of therapeutic benefit associated with high doses of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) citalopram hydrobromide (Celexa), the FDA has reduced the recommended maximum to 40 mg/day. Previously, the agency had approved a 60-mg/day dose of the antidepressant for certain patients.

### 8.4.11 Updated drug labels for pioglitazone-containing medicines

The FDA approved updated drug labels for the pioglitazone-containing medicines to include safety information that the use of pioglitazone for more than one year may be associated with an increased risk of bladder cancer.

### 8.4.11 Safety review update of Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (somatropin) and possible increased risk of death

The FDA updated the public about its ongoing safety review of recombinant human growth hormone (somatropin) and possible increased risk of death. The FDA has determined that, at this time, the evidence regarding recombinant human growth hormone and increased risk of death is inconclusive. Healthcare professionals and patients should continue to prescribe and use recombinant human growth hormone according to the labeled recommendations.

### 8.3.11 Use of long-term, high-dose Diflucan (fluconazole) during pregnancy may be associated with birth defects in infants

The FDA has found that chronic, high doses (400-800 mg/day) of the antifungal drug Diflucan (fluconazole) may be associated with a rare and distinct set of birth defects in infants whose mothers were treated with the drug during the first trimester of pregnancy. This risk does not appear to be associated with a single, low dose of fluconazole 150 mg to treat vaginal yeast infection (candidiasis). Healthcare professionals should be aware of the potential risks with long-term, high-dose use of fluconazole and counsel patients if the drug is used during pregnancy or if a patient becomes pregnant while taking the drug.

### 8.2.11 American Regent, Inc. Initiates Voluntary Recall of 17 Lots of Vasopressin Injection, USP, Multiple Dose Vials Due to Sub-Potency

American Regent, Inc. is conducting a nationwide voluntary recall of 5 lots of Vasopressin Injection, USP 20 units/mL (200 units/10mL), 10 mL Multiple Dose Vials; 11 lots of Vasopressin Injection, USP 20 units/mL, 1 mL Multiple Dose Vials; and 1 lot of Vasopressin Injection, USP 10 units/0.5 mL, 0.5 mL Multiple Dose Vials to the Retail/Hospital level. Recall of this product was initiated by American Regent, Inc. because some vials may not maintain potency throughout their shelf-life. Potential adverse events after administration of solutions that are below potency limits may include reduced effectiveness.

### 7.26.11 Serious CNS reactions possible when linezolid and methylene blue is given to patients taking certain psychiatric medications

The FDA has received reports of serious central nervous system (CNS) reactions when the antibacterial drug linezolid (marketed as Zyvox) is given to patients taking psychiatric medications that work through the serotonin system of the brain (serotonergic psychiatric medications). Methylene blue is commonly used in diagnostic procedures and is also used to treat a number of medical conditions.

Please visit [www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html](http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html) and <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm199082.htm> for more information.

## The Passport Health Plan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Reviewed the Following Medications on August 18, 2011

Annual Class/Medication Reviews		
Therapeutic Class Name	Use	Passport Health Plan Status
Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder	Treatment attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement a step therapy edit for Intuniv to require a trial and failure of guanfacine. This will be for all providers. Members currently taking these medications will be grandfathered.</li> <li>2. Maintain Kapvay as non-preferred.</li> </ol>
Atypical Antipsychotics	Treatment of various psychiatric conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add Latuda and Saphris to the Preferred Drug List.</li> <li>2. Update the Zyprexa prior authorization criteria as follows: Patients with documented hospitalization and 1 week of therapy would be allowed to continue therapy. New starts (without history of hospitalization) would require trial and failure of one other atypical antipsychotic.</li> </ol>
2nd Generation Antihistamines	Treatment of seasonal allergies	Add Allegra OTC and Allegra suspension to the Preferred Drug List as second line agents requiring a trial and failure of generic Zyrtec and Claritin.
Oral Contraceptives	Birth control	Remove generic Yasmin and Ortho Tri-cyclen Lo from the Preferred Drug List. Members currently taking these medications will be grandfathered.
Anti-Gout Medications	Prevention and treatment of gout	Implement prior authorization criteria for Colcris that will include a trial and failure of NSAIDS, Cox-2 Inhibitors, Intra-articular corticosteroids, or systemic corticosteroids.

Smoking Cessation Products	Reduction of withdrawal symptoms associated with quitting smoking	Add Chantix, nicotine patch and gum to the Preferred Drug List with a 12-week therapy limitation on all smoking cessation products within a rolling calendar year. The following quantity limits will also be placed on these individual products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chantix: 2/day</li> <li>• Nicotine gum: 24/day</li> <li>• Nicotine transdermal system: 1/day</li> </ul>
Hepatitis B & C Treatments	For the treatment of chronic Hepatitis	Maintain both Incivek and Victrelis as co-preferred.
Effexor XR	Indicated for the treatment of major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, panic disorder, and social anxiety disorder	Remove the prerequisite therapy requirement with Cymbalta.

Brand Name	Generic Name	Preferred Drug List Alternatives	Passport Health Plan Status	Pricing
Aczone®	Dapsone gel, 5%	Clindamycin 1% Gel - \$17.70-\$35.40 (30-60 gm) Erythromycin 2% gel - \$13.20-\$26.40 (30-60 gm)	Remain non-preferred	\$169.50 (30 grams)
Arcapta™ Neohaler™	Indacaterol inhalation powder	Combivent \$190.07 (1 inhaler) Spiriva \$167.70 (30 capsules) Atrovent HFA \$172.73 (1 inhaler)	Remain non-preferred	\$173.40 (1 inhaler)
Brilinta	Ticagrelor	Plavix \$193.80 (30 tablets)	Remain non-preferred	\$231.00 (60 tablets)
Daliresp™	Roflumilast tablets, 500mcg	Combivent \$190.07 (1 inhaler) Spiriva \$167.70 (30 capsules) Atrovent HFA \$172.73 (1 inhaler)	Remain non-preferred	\$183.30 (30 tablets)
Difucid™	Fidaxomicin	Metronidazole \$10.81-\$15.12 (30-42 tablets)	Remain non-preferred	\$2,975.00 (20 tablets)
Edurant™	Rilpivirine tablets, 25mg	Sustiva \$48.30-\$580.20 (30 tabs/capsules) Rescriptor \$78.30-\$313.20 (90-180 tablets) Viramune \$580.80 (60 tablets)	Remain non-preferred	\$669.30 (30 tablets)
Horizant™	Gabapentin Enacarbil Extended-Release Tablets	Ropinriole \$13.14-\$24.92 (30 tablets) Pramipexole \$16.39 (30 tablets) Gabapentin \$4.80-\$37.80 (30-90 tablets)	Remain non-preferred	\$105.30 (30 tablets)
Phoslyra™	Calcium Acetate 667mg/5ml Solution	Calcium Acetate \$52.20-\$208.80 (90-360 capsules)	Remain non-preferred	\$324.00 (1800 ml)

Tradjenta™	Linagliptin tablets, 5mg	Metformin \$4.20-\$9.00 (60-90 tablets) Januvia (with step therapy) \$162.30 Onglyza (with step therapy) \$172.50	Remain non-preferred	\$215.70 (30 tablets)
Viibryd®	Vilazodone Hydrochloride	Citalopram \$4.34-\$6.90 (30-45 tablets) Fluoxetine \$2.79-\$7.80 (30-60 tablets) Paroxetine \$6.90-\$15.10 (30-45 tablets) Sertraline 5.20-\$5.90 (30 tablets)	Remain non-preferred	\$125.90 (30 tablets)
Xarelto®	Rivaroxaban tablets, 10mg	Warfarin \$4.80-\$23.00 (30 tablets)	Remain non-preferred	\$215.10 (30 tablets)