

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DEPARTMENT: PHARMACY	REFERENCE NUMBER: GA.PHAR.14
EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/09	POLICY NAME: PREFERRED DRUG LIST
REVIEWED/REVISED DATE: 06/17, 04/18, 06/18, 02/19, 04/19,04/2020, 4/2021, 4/2022, 7/2022	RETIRED DATE: N/A
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SCOPE:

Peach State Health Plan Pharmacy Department, Centene Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee, Peach State Health Plan Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committees, and Centene Pharmacy Services.

PURPOSE:

To maintain a comprehensive Preferred Drug List (PDL) to serve Peach State Health Plan members while also identifying pharmaceutical management controls that assure appropriate use of drugs and a high quality pharmacy benefit.

POLICY:

The Centene Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee is responsible for approving all changes to the Centene PDL, in cooperation with Peach State Health Plan’s P&T Committee. In addition, the Centene P&T Committee will determine which drugs included in the PDL will require pharmaceutical management edits including prior authorization, quantity limits, age and gender edits, and step therapy. The Centene PDL will also be reviewed to verify compliance with state regulations and allow for variances based upon the findings.

PROCEDURE:

1. Clinical Pharmacy Advisory Committee (CPAC) will monitor the drug approval pipeline and provide information to the Centene P & T Committee and Peach State Health Plan’s P & T Committee for evaluation including: annual reviews, quarterly by therapeutic class, of the current drugs on the PDL to determine the appropriateness of PDL positioning, the potential for changes based on new drug arrivals or labeling changes, and any pharmaceutical management protocols that may need to be implemented.

2. The Centene Corporation uses a process that allows Peach State Health plan’s P & T Committees to review recommendations from CPAC and provide feedback prior to presentation of the material to Corporate P&T. This work flow promotes an environment that allows all P & T Committee members input and recognizes regional differences in practice standards.

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3. It is the objective of Centene to offer uniform coverage across all Medicaid and Medicare Plans for the membership that it serves. Peach State Health Plan may request variances from the Corporate P & T Committee recommendations with submission of Health Plan P & T Recommendation providing clinical rationale (peer reviewed articles, published double-blind, randomized, studies (of sufficient size, normally $N \geq 100$) that demonstrate a clearly superior benefit, guidelines that are supported by professional medical organizations, pharmacoeconomic drug comparison studies, or State required mandates for coverage or coverage exclusions. Requests must include Peach State Health Plan's P&T Committee agreement by a quorum approval vote. Requests for reconsideration should be forwarded to the Corporate Pharmacy team for presentation to and review by the Corporate Pharmacy P&T Committee. Final disposition will be decided by the Corporate P&T Committee.

4. Any changes to the PDL must first be evaluated against Peach State Health Plan's State regulations, and all changes will be submitted to the State for approval where applicable.

Per Peach State Health Plan's contract with the Department of Community Health, at minimum, the PDL must meet the following criteria:

- Drugs from each specific therapeutic drug class are included and are sufficient in amount, duration, and scope to meet Member's Medical needs;
 - The only excluded drug categories are those permitted under section 1927 (d) of the Social Security Act;
 - A Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee makes the formulary decisions;
 - Over the counter medications specified in the Georgia State Medicaid Plan are included in the formulary.
5. The Corporate P&T Committee considers all clinical recommendations and based on clinical effectiveness and comparison makes one of following Utilization Management Recommendations:
 - There is significant potential for inappropriate use and utilization management should be considered for the following reason(s). The CPAC rationale for prior

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authorization will be provided, a specific example that supports the CPAC rationale and recommended utilization management tools.

- There is not significant potential for inappropriate use.
- Placement of the drug compared to similar drugs or drug classes. Equal access can be provided or a step therapy can be proposed.

6. Corporate P&T decisions are forwarded to the Strategy Development Committee (SDC). The SDC will review and perform data and financial analyses to make PDL decisions consistent with Corporate P&T decisions. SDC will manage drug cost using a multi-disciplinary standardized approach to identify, develop and implement long and short-term strategies in support of health plan financial and other business objectives. Data and analytics will optimize decision-making.
7. The decisions are communicated to Regional Leads and Formulary Management. Formulary Management then loads decisions into the claims system. Peach State Health Plan member and provider web sites are updated as well and should be synchronized with preferred drug lists published. The responsibility of communicating changes to the PDL to Peach State Health Plan providers resides at the plan level. The Health Plan communicates via Member and Provider newsletter on an annual basis the availability of the most current PDL on the website. If significant changes to the PDL are made, Peach State Health Plan will communicate by posting the changes on their website quarterly.
8. All requests from providers for additions, deletions or changes to the PDL will be reviewed by the Peach State Health Plan's P&T Committee and recommendations for agreed upon changes are forwarded to the Centene Corporate P&T Committee by Peach State Health Plan's Pharmacy Director. Subsequently, CPAC will review the requests and present them for consideration to the Corporate P&T Committee. For provider requests not agreed to by Peach State Health Plan's P&T Committee, the Peach State Health Plan's Pharmacy Director will communicate the adverse decision to the requesting provider. Provider requests for changes to the PDL must be submitted in writing to the Peach State Health Plan's Pharmacy Director and must be substantiated with evidenced based medical rationale in order to be considered.

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- Any participating physician may request an addition, deletion or change to Peach State Health Plan’s PDL by submitting a “PDL Change Request Form”. The “PDL Change Request Form” is available on the Peach State Health Plan’s Provider website for download, or by calling the provider relations department and requesting that a form to be mailed or faxed.
- If denied, the rationale for denial is documented in the Peach State Health Plan’s P&T Committee minutes and distributed, with the original request, to Peach State Health Plan’s Pharmacist. The Peach State Health Plan’s Pharmacist notifies the doctor that the request was denied by the Peach State Health Plan’s P&T Committee.

9. The Corporate and Peach State Health Plan’s P&T Committee members are responsible to stay informed on the latest medications available on the market including newly arrived generic and brand-name products and changes in drug labeling.

REFERENCES: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

REVISION LOG

REVISION	DATE
Revisions complete at this time were made to address clerical errors, align with NCQA standards and language, and represent the work process in place at the corporate level, plan level, and at US Script	07/2010
Inclusion of language clarifying requirements for Health Plan requests for coverage variances from a standardized PDL. Language is as follows: It is the objective of Centene to offer uniform coverage across all Medicaid and Medicare Plans for the membership that it serves. The Health Plan may request variances from the Corporate P&T Committee recommended	07/2011

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additions to, deletions from, or limitations of PDL coverage with submission of clinical rationale (peer reviewed articles or published studies or guidelines that are supported by professional medical organizations), pharmacoeconomic drug comparison studies, or State required mandates for coverage or coverage exclusions. Requests must include Health Plan P&T Committee agreement by a quorum approval vote. Requests for reconsideration should be forwarded to the Corporate Pharmacy team for presentation to and review by the Corporate Pharmacy P&T Committee. Final disposition will be decided by the Corporate P&T Committee.	
Updated Health Plan Recommendation to Corporate Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee form to specify the email address where the form should be sent.	07/2011
No changes other than clarifying language.	07/2012
Under clinical rationale to support a Health Plan P&T recommendation, language was expanded from “published studies” to “published double-blind, randomized, studies (of sufficient size, normally N ≥100) that demonstrate a clearly superior benefit”.	06/2013
Annual review. No changes at this time.	06/2014
Annual review. Updated plan name in accordance to rebranding. Updated plan address on Attachment A.	06/2015
Annual review. Updated PBM name from US Script to Envolve Pharmacy Solutions.	06/2016
Updated “Procedure” section to incorporate new P&T process; removed reference to “pharmacy solutions group lead” and replaced with Envolve Pharmacy Solutions	03/2017
Annual review. No changes made.	06/2017
Retiring Attachments A and B: PDL Change Request and HP PT Recommendation forms; other avenues of communicating these requests and recommendations are being used.	04/2018
Annual review. No changes made.	06/2018
Changed current Georgia policy templates to corporate standard templates for standard operating policy/procedures criteria to meet	02/2019

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corporate compliance. Changes/revisions included; new formatting, font size, use of standard policy language for each section of policy, and rearranged order of certain steps in criteria and sections.	
Annual review. No changes made.	04/2019
Annual review. Minor font changes	04/2020
Annual review. Replaced Centene Logo with PSHP Logo.	04/2021
2Q 2022 review. No changes made.	04/2022
3Q 2022 annual review. Removed Centene Corporate Pharmacy Department and Centene Corporate Pharmacy Solutions. Removed Envolve Pharmacy Solutions as the PBM. Changed Envolve Pharmacy Solutions to Centene Pharmacy Services.	07/2022

POLICY AND PROCEDURE APPROVAL

The electronic approval retained in RSA Archer, the Company's P&P management software, is considered equivalent to a signature.