

PROVIDERFACTS



Abilify® and Zyprexa®

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama would like to update you on the latest recommendations from our Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee concerning the atypical antipsychotic class of drugs.

Effective January 4, 2010, Abilify® and Zyprexa® will be moved to Non-Preferred (Tier 3) status. The products in this drug class that are currently available as a generic or Preferred drug are listed below, along with other Non-Preferred alternatives. Members receiving Abilify® or Zyprexa® within the past six months have been sent a written notice explaining this formulary change.

Generic (Tier 1)	Preferred Brands (Tier 2)	Preferred Brands (Tier 3)
		Abilify®, Abilify Discmelt®
clozapine		Clozaril®
risperidone	Seroquel®	Geodon®
risperidone m-tab	Seroquel XR®	Invega®
risperidone ODT		Risperdal®, Risperdal® Consta
		Zyprexa®, Zyprexa Zydis®

The recommendation to remove Abilify® and Zyprexa® from the Preferred Drug List (PDL) was approved by our P&T Committee, which is comprised of independent practicing physicians and pharmacists. This decision was based on a variety of factors including clinical, safety and pharmacoeconomic outcomes data.

The goal of Blue Cross is to provide high-quality, cost-effective pharmacy benefits to our members. We understand that numerous patient-specific variables must be taken into account when considering drug therapy, and as the treating physician, you have the final say in your patient's care. However, by using generics and medications on our PDL, you can help control your patients' healthcare costs because generic and Preferred products are associated with lower patient costs than Non-Preferred products.

The PDL is continually reviewed and may be updated from time to time as new drugs, indications and clinical information become available. A complete and current listing of the Blue Cross PDL can be viewed on our web site at bcbsal.com/pdfs/pdl.pdf.

Questions or comments about these formulary changes may be sent by fax to 205-733-6471 or e-mail to pharm-pol-rvw-comm@bcbsal.org.

Important Information

The following disclaimer is applicable to all telephone inquiries and automated communications systems (i.e., InfoSolutions®, telephone, and fax) to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama:

The information provided is only general benefit information and is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits are always subject to the terms and limitations of the plan and no employee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has authority to enlarge or expand the terms of the plan. The availability of benefits is always conditioned upon the patient's coverage and the existence of a contract for plan benefits as of the date of service. A loss of coverage, as well as contract termination, can occur under certain circumstances. There will be no benefits available if such circumstances occur.

Note: Please refer to our web site, www.bcbsal.com, for the most current benefit and policy information.