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Effective Date: 10/03/2024

llaris[®] (canakinumab)

HCPCS: J0638

Policy:

Requests must be supported by submission of chart notes and patient specific documentation.

- A. Coverage of the requested drug is provided when all the following are met:
 - a. FDA approved age
 - b. Diagnosis of:

ii.

- i. Still's disease, including adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD) and systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA)
 - 1. Trial and treatment failure with one of the following: glucocorticoids or NSAIDs
 - 2. Trial and failure, contraindication, or intolerance to Kineret® and Actemra®
 - Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor Associated Periodic Syndrome (TRAPS)
- iii. Hyperimmunoglobulin D Syndrome (HIDS)/Mevalonate Kinase Deficiency (MKD)
- iv. Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) in patients who have tried and failed colchicine
- v. Cryopyrin-Associated Periodic Syndromes (CAPS) with phenotypes: Familial Cold Auto-Inflammatory Syndrome (FCAS) or Muckle-Wells Syndrome (MWS)
 - Laboratory evidence of a genetic mutation (such as in the Cold-Induced Autoinflammatory Syndrome 1 (CIAS1 – also referred to as the NLRP-3)) OR
 - 2. Elevated inflammatory markers (C-reactive protein [CRP] and serum amyloid A) plus at least two of six typical CAPS manifestations:
 - a) Urticaria-like rash
 - b) Cold-triggered episodes
 - c) Sensorineural hearing loss
 - d) Musculoskeletal symptoms
 - e) Chronic aseptic meningitis
 - f) Skeletal abnormalities
- vi. Gout flares
 - 1. Member has undertaken appropriate lifestyle modifications (i.e. limiting alcohol consumption, discontinuing or changing other medications known to precipitate gout attacks when possible)
 - 2. Trial and treatment failure, contraindication, or intolerance to ALL of the following for the symptomatic treatment of gout flares:

- a) NSAIDs
- b) Colchicine
- c) Corticosteroids
- 3. Patients requiring treatment beyond the initial quantity allowed in this policy will be required to be established on maintenance therapy with urate-lowering agents (e.g., allopurinol, febuxostat, probenecid)
- c. Not to be used in combination with other biologics or targeted DMARDs for the same indication
- d. Trial and failure, contraindication, OR intolerance to the preferred drugs as listed in BCBSM/BCN utilization management medical drug list.
- B. Quantity Limitations, Authorization Period and Renewal Criteria
 - a. Quantity Limits: Align with FDA recommended dosing
 - b. Authorization Period:
 - i. Still's disease (including AOSD and sJIA), TRAPS, HIDS/MKD, FMF, CAPS with FCAS or MWS phenotypes: One year at a time
 - ii. Gout flares: Four months
 - c. Renewal criteria: Clinical documentation must be provided to confirm that current criteria are met and that the medication is providing clinical benefit

***Note: Coverage and approval duration may differ for Medicare Part B members based on any applicable criteria outlined in Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) or National Coverage Determinations (NCD) as determined by Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). See the CMS website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/. Determination of coverage of Part B drugs is based on medically accepted indications which have supported citations included or approved for inclusion determined by CMS approved compendia.

Bachground Information:

- Ilaris is an interleukin (IL)-1β blocker that is approved for the following indications and administered subcutaneously by a healthcare provider:
 - Periodic Fever Syndromes:
 - Cryopyrin-Associated Periodic Syndromes (CAPS) in adults and children 4 years of age and older including Familial Cold Autoinflammatory Syndrome (FCAS) and Muckle-Wells Syndrome (MWS).
 - Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor Associated Periodic Syndrome (TRAPS) in adult and pediatric patients.
 - Hyperimmunoglobulin D Syndrome (HIDS)/Mevalonate Kinase Deficiency (MKD) in adult and pediatric patients.
 - Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) in adult and pediatric patients.
 - Active Still's disease, including adult-onset Still's disease (AOSD) and systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA) in patients 2 years of age and older.
 - Symptomatic treatment of gout flare in adults in whom NSAIDs and colchicine are contraindicated, not tolerated, or do not provide an adequate response, and in whom repeated courses of corticosteroids are not appropriate.

- Periodic Fever Syndromes are a group of rare autoinflammatory diseases that cause disabling and persistent fevers which may be accompanied by joint pain, swelling, muscle pain and skin rashes with complications that can be lifethreatening.
 - The most common syndrome is FMF, which mainly affects people of Eastern Mediterranean ancestry. It affects 1 in 250 to 1 in 1,000 individuals in these populations, many of whom are children. FMF is characterized by episodic attacks of fever lasting one to three days and accompanied, in most cases, by abdominal pain, pleurisy, and arthralgias/arthritis.
 - TRAPS is characterized by recurrent fevers over months or years. Other clinical features include focal myalgias, conjunctivitis, and rash. Fever and associated symptoms commonly last at least five days and often continue for more than two weeks.
 - HIDS/MKD is characterized by episodic attacks of fever lasting three to seven days accompanied, in most cases, by chills, cervical lymphadenopathy, abdominal pain, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
 - CAPS are a group of rare genetic diseases affecting approximately 200 to 300 people in the United States, attributed to a specific genetic mutation. There are two types of CAPS recognized that affect the majority of patients.
 - Familial Cold Auto-Inflammatory Syndrome (FCAS) patients have recurrent intermittent episodes
 of fever and rash that primarily followed natural, artificial (e.g., air conditioning) or both types of
 generalized cold exposure.
 - Muckle-Wells Syndrome (MWS) patients have chronic fever and rash that may wax and wane in intensity; sometimes exacerbated by generalized cold exposure. This syndrome may be associated with deafness or amyloidosis.
 - The diagnosis of CAPS is confirmed by genetic testing for NALP3 mutations. However in some patients the mutation is not detectable for various reasons. For these situations, diagnostic criteria include raised inflammatory markers (C-reactive protein [CRP] and serum amyloid A) plus at least two of six typical CAPS manifestations:
 - Urticaria-like rash
 - Cold-triggered episodes
 - Sensorineural hearing loss
 - Musculoskeletal symptoms
 - Chronic aseptic meningitis
 - Skeletal abnormalities
 - Clinical guidelines for management of Periodic Fever Syndromes include the following recommendations:
 - The 2016 European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) clinical guidelines for the management of FMF recommend first-line treatment with colchicine as soon as a clinical diagnosis of FMF is established. Biological therapy with an IL-1β blocker should be considered if inflammation is not controlled with a maximally tolerated dose of colchicine.

- The 2021 EULAR/American College of Rheumatology (ACR) clinical guidelines for the management and of IL-1 mediated autoinflammatory diseases recommend IL-1β blocker therapy as standard of care for patients with TRAPS, MKD and CAPS.
 - Ilaris (cankinumab) is the preferred IL-1β blocker for TRAPS and MKD.
 - Arcalyst® (rilonacept) is another IL-1β blocker indicated for the treatment of CAPS. Both
 products appear to have similar efficacy. Ilaris has a more convenient dosing regimen and
 is indicated for a younger age population.
- Still's disease (adult onset and systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA))
 - sJIA is a rare and distinct subtype of juvenile idiopathic arthritis that causes body-wide inflammation. It accounts for 4-15% of JIA and is defined as arthritis in ≥ 1 joint for at least 6 weeks duration in a child age < 16 years with or preceded by a fever of at least 2 weeks duration that is documented to be daily for at least 3 days and accompanied by one or more of the following: evanescent erythematous rash, generalized lymphadenopathy, hepatomegaly or splenomegaly, and serositis. The condition can occur in adulthood with similar features and is referred to as adult onset Still's disease (AOSD) when diagnosed in patients ages ≥16 years.</p>
 - AOSD and sJIA may also be complicated by macrophage activation syndrome (MAS), a secondary
 hemophagocytic 4yndrome that can be life-threatening and requires urgent recognition and treatment. MAS
 presents with fevers, high ferritin levels, cytopenias, elevated liver enzyme, low fibrinogen levels, and high
 triglyceride levels. Regardless of MAS presence at presentation, careful monitoring is necessary as MAS
 can occur at anypoint during the disease course.
 - The underlying inflammatory process of AOSD and sJIA appears to be distinct from other categories of autoimmune arthritis, with interleukin (IL)-1 and IL-6 playing a central role. The goal of therapy focuses on prompt control of active inflammation and symptoms and prevention of disease- and or treatment-related morbidities like growth disturbances, joint damage and functional limitations.
 - Treatment recommendations vary depending on the presence of MAS.The 2021 ACR guideline for pharmacologic management of oligoarthritis, TMJ arthritis, and sJIA in children recommend the following for the treatment of sJIA:
 - Classes of pharmacologic interventions addressed in the recommendations include:
 - Any NSAIDs at therapeutic dosing
 - Traditional DMARDs (i.e., methotrexate, sulfasalazine, hydroxychloroquine, leflunomide, calcineurin inhibitors (cyclosporin A, tacrolimus))
 - Biologics (i.e., tumor necrosis factor inhibitors (adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, golimumab, certolizumab pegol), abatacept, IL inhibitors (tocilizumab, anakinra, canakinumab))
 - Glucocorticoids, including any oral or intravenous agent, or intraarticular triamcinolone acetonide or triamcinolone hexacetonide.

- In the presence of MAS, an IL-1 or IL-6 inhibitor (no preferred agent) and/or systemic glucocorticoids are recommended for initial treatment. If residual arthritis is present, a traditional DMARD may be added or treatment can be switched to a different biologic agent (no preferred agent).
- In sJIA without MAS, the guidelines recommend monotherapy with an IL-1 or IL-6 inhibitor (no preferred agent) and/or a brief trial of scheduled NSAIDs. The guidelines do not provide a recommended duration of initial use for NSAIDs. Traditional DMARDs are strongly recommended against as initial monotherapy as they are minimally effective at controlling systemic features of sJIA alone. Glucocorticoids are also conditionally recommended against as initial monotherapy; however, they may be used to help control systemic and joint manifestations of sJIA until an IL-1 or IL-6 inhibitor can be started. If a patient experiences an incomplete response or intolerance to first-line treatment, switching to an alternative IL-1 or IL-6 inhibitor is recommended (no preferred agent).
- Regardless of the presence of MAS, if a patient responds to initial treatment but residual arthritis is
 present, a traditional DMARD or switch to a different biologic (no preferred agent) is recommended.
- Ultimately, treatment is continued and the patient monitored until the sJIA becomes inactive, at which point it is recommended that the patient taper and stop biologics and/or glucocorticoids.
- Ilaris (canakinumab; IL-1 inhibitor) and Actemra (tocilizumab; IL-6 inhibitor) are the only biologic agents FDA approved to treat sJIA, and llaris is the only drug approved for AOSD. There are no guidelines for treating AOSD; however, literature recommends a similar treatment approach as with sJIA. The use of Kineret (anakinra; IL-1 inhibitor) for sJIA and both Kineret and Actemra for AOSD is supported by various trials, case studies, and case series. Additionally, the efficacy of Kineret and Actemra in sJIA provides further evidence supporting the use of both agents in AOSD. The significantly lower cost of Actemra and Kineret make these agents more cost-effective alternatives to llaris for the treatment of sJIA and AOSD.
- Gout Flares
 - Gout is an inflammatory arthritis that results from hyperuricemia, which contributes to crystallization of
 monosodium urate monohydrate in the joints. It is one of the most common rheumatic diseases of adulthood
 with significant morbidity attributed to gout flares (i.e. severe pain, reduced quality of life, decreased physical
 function). Acutely, anti-inflammatory treatment (e.g., NSAIDs, colchicine, corticosteroids) is used to provide
 rapid pain relief and resolution of gout glares. Chronically, urate-lowering therapy (ULT; e.g., allopurinol,
 febuxostat, probenecid) reduce urate stores and, along with anti-inflammatory prophylaxis, reduces the risk
 of new flares.
 - One of the mainstays of gout treatment is patient education on diet, lifestyle modifications, and management
 of comorbidities with a goal of decreasing the risk and frequency of acute gout attacks and lowering serum
 urate levels. Dietary modifications include limiting consumption of purine-rich meat and seafood, alcohol,
 and beverages sweetened by high-fructose corn syrup, and encouraging the consumption of vegetables and
 low-/non-fat dairy products. Elimination of non-essential medications that may induce hyperuricemia should
 also be considered.
 - The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) guidelines for the management of gout (2020) strongly recommend the use of pharmacologic ULT in gout patients experiencing frequent gout flares, defined as ≥ 2 flares annually.

- Allopurinol, a xanthine oxidase inhibitor (XOI), is the preferred first-line treatment option and is strongly recommended for all patients requiring ULT based on allopurinol's efficacy, safety, tolerability, and low cost. Treatment should be initiated with a lower starting dose to mitigate safety issues, and gradually titrated to a target serum urate (SU) level of < 6 mg/dL, not to exceed a maximum of 800 mg per day.
- If SU levels are persistently above target and a patient exhibits continued gout flares (> 2 per year) or has non-resolving subcutaneous tophi despite initial treatment with a maximally tolerated or maximally dosed XOI, the guidelines conditionally recommend switching to a second XOI (i.e. febuxostat) over adding a uricosuric agent (e.g., probenecid). The conditional recommendation is due to the fact that no studies directly address the choice of switching to another XOI vs. adding a uricosuric agent when the ULT strategy requires a change.
- The 2020 ACR guidelines did not include a formal vote on the indications for uricosuric agents like probenecid; however, they do concur with the 2012 guidelines that add-on therapy with a uricosuric agent to partially responsive XOI treatment can result in improved control of SU. Additionally, literature supports the use of probenecid as monotherapy if there is a contraindication or intolerance to XOIs as it provides an alternative mechanism for the treatment of gout.
- Concomitant anti-inflammatory prophylaxis (e.g., colchicine, NSAIDs, glucocorticoids) is strongly
 recommended when initiating ULT for at least 3-6 months after initiation to reduce the risk of gout flares.
 After cessation, monitoring for flare activity and as-needed continuation of anti-inflammatory therapy if the
 patient continues to experience gout flares is strongly recommended.
- For patients experiencing gout flares:
 - The guidelines strongly recommend using oral colchicine, NSAIDs, or glucocorticoids (oral, intraarticular, or intramuscular) as appropriate first-line therapy over IL-1 inhibitors like llaris based on substantial trial data demonstrating efficacy, relative low cost, and tolerability of these agents in managing a flare. Dosing and duration should be guided by flare severity, and choice of first-line agent should be based on patient factors.
 - Those who are unable to take oral medications are strongly recommended treatment with injectable glucocorticoids over IL-1 inhibitors. The guidelines do, however, conditionally recommend use of an IL-1 inhibitor for patients experiencing gout flares for whom the preferred anti-inflammatory therapies are either ineffective, poorly tolerated, or contraindicated.
 - The guidelines do not specifically address llaris in these recommendations, though they
 acknowledge that there is high quality evidence from network meta-analyses supporting its use for
 gout flares; however, the ACR panel raised concerns that the comparator in clinical trials was weak
 and that cost would significantly favor the other lower-cost, guideline-recommended therapies.
- The approval of llaris for gout flares was based on two 12-week randomized, double-blind, active-controlled studies in adults with gout flares for whom NSAIDs and/or colchicine were contraindicated, not tolerated, or ineffective, and experienced at least three gout flares in the previous year (β-RELIEVED and β-RELIEVED-II). Patients were randomized to llaris 150 mg subcutaneous or intramuscular triamcinolone acetonide 40 mg at baseline and thereafter treated upon a new flare. A third 12-week trial was also conducted evaluating two formulations of llaris against intramuscular triamcinolone acetonide 40 mg. Concomitant treatment with ULT was not required and was reported by over 40% of patients at trial entry across all three trials. Findings from the studies showed that among patients unable to use NSAIDs and colchicine, pain intensity of the most affected joint at 72 hours post-dose was consistently lower for those treated with llaris compared with

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injectable triamcinolone. Treatment was also associated with a reduction in the risk of a new flare compared to triamcinolone.

- When used to treat acute gout flares, additional doses of llaris if needed should be administered at least 12 weeks apart per the prescribing information.
- The safety and effectiveness of llaris in treating these conditions were established in multiple clinical trials. The use
 of llaris in combination with other biologic agents or targeted disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs is not
 recommended due to a lack of robust clinical evidence to support the safety and efficacy of concurrent use.

References:

- 1. Ilaris [prescribing information]. East Hanover, NJ: Novartis. August 2023.
- 2. Ozen S, Demirkaya E, Erer B, et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of familial Mediterranean fever. Ann Rheum Dis. 2016;75(4):644-651. doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-208690
- 3. Nigrovic, PA. Cryopyrin-associated periodic syndromes and related disorders. UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2020.
- 4. Padeh, YC. Hyperimmunoglobulin D Syndrome: Management. UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2020.
- 5. Kuemmerle-Deschner JB, Ozen S, Tyrrell PN et al. Diagnostic criteria for cryopyrin-associated periodic syndrome (CAPS). Ann Rheum Dis. 2017;76(6):942.
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- Romano M, Arici ZS, Piskin D, et al. The 2021 EULAR/American College of Rheumatology points to consider for diagnosis, management and monitoring of the interleukin-1 mediated autoinflammatory diseases: cryopyrinassociated periodic syndromes, tumour necrosis factor receptor-associated periodic syndrome, mevalonate kinase deficiency, and deficiency of the interleukin-1 receptor antagonist. Ann Rheum Dis. 2022;81(7):907-921. doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-221801
- 8. Mandl, L. Treatment of adult Still's disease. UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2020.
- Onel KB, Horton db, et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: Therapeutic Approaches for Oligoarthritis, Tempomandibular Joint Arthritis, and Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2022 Apr;74(4):553-569. doi: 10.1002/art.42037. Epub 2022 Mar 1.
- 10. 2012 American College of Rheumatology Guidelines for Management of Gout. Part 1: Systematic Nonpharmacologic and Pharmacologic Therapeutic Approaches to Hyperuricemia. Arthritis care and Research. Vol 64, No. 10, October 2012: 1431-1446.
- 11. Fitzgerald JD, et al. 2020 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Management of Gout. Arthritis Care and Research. Vol. 72, No. 6, June 2020:744-760.

Policy	History				
#	Date	Change Description			
2.7	Effective Date:	Added "for the same indication" to the not to be used in combination with other			
	10/03/2024	biologics or targeted DMARDs criteria			
2.6	Effective Date:	Updated policy to include criteria, authorization period, and supporting information for			
	10/12/2023	new indication for treating gout flares			
2.5	Effective Date:	Removed DMARDs from sJIA and AOSD step options			
	04/06/2023	Background info updated to reflect 2021 ACR recommendations for sJIA			
2.4	Effective Date: 12/01/2022	Annual review of medical policy – no changes to criteria			
2.3	Effective Date: 12/09/2021	Removed FDA approved indications criteria			
2.2	Effective Date: 02/04/2021	Added trial and failure of Actemra and Kineret to criteria for sJIA and AOSD			
2.1	Effective Date: 12/03/2020	Updated step criteria for AOSD and sJIA. Added criteria bullet d – not to use in combination with biologics. Changed renewal criteria to be consistent across all diagnoses.			
2.0	Effective Date; 9/28/2020	UM medical management system update for MAPPO AND BCNA			
		Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)		
		BCBS	Yes		
		BCN	Yes		
		MAPPO	Yes		
		BCNA	Yes		
1.9	Effective Date: 08/13/2020	Updates were made to the criteria, including adding criteria for a new indication			
1.8	Effective Date: 11/7/2019	Criteria updated for step therapy for SIJA			
1.7	Effective Date: 08/15/2019	Annual Review of Medical Policy			
1.6	Effective Date: 08/09/2018	Change in verbiage for preferred therapy			
1.5	Effective Date: 05/03/2018	Annual Review of Medical Policy			
1.4	Effective Date 05/04/2017	Added new criteria for TRAPS, HIDS/MKD, and FMF.			
1.3	Effective Date 08/11/2016	Annual Update			
1.2	Effective Date: 02/01/2015	UM medical management system update for BCN			
		Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)		
		BCBS	Yes		
		BCN	Yes		
		МАРРО	No		

1.1	Effective Date: 04/01/2014	UM medical management system update for BCBSM		
		Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)	
		BCBS	Yes	
		BCN	No	
		MAPPO	No	
		BCNA	No	
1.0	Effective Date: 08/08/2013	Criteria Update		
		Line of Business	PA Required in Medical Management System (Yes/No)	
		BCBS	No	
		BCN	No	
		MAPPO	No	
		BCNA	No	

* The prescribing information for a drug is subject to change. To ensure you are reading the most current information it is advised that you reference the most updated prescribing information by visiting the drug or manufacturer website or <u>http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/index.cfm</u>.

Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Care Network of Michigan Medication Authorization Request Form Ilaris[®] (canakinumab) HCPCS CODE: J0638



This form is to be used by participating physicians to obtain coverage for Ilaris. For <u>commercial members only</u>, please complete this form and submit via fax to 1-877-325-5979. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact BCBSM Provider Relations and Servicing or the Medical Drug Helpdesk at 1-800-437-3803 for assistance.

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	PATIENT INFORMATION	PHYSICIAN INFORMATION	
Name		Name	
ID Number		Specialty Address	
D.O.B.	☐Male ☐Female		
Pt weight (i	n kg) Date recorded:		
Diagnosis		City /State/Zip	
Drug Name		Phone/Fax: P: () - F: () - NPI Contact Person Contact Person Phone / Ext.	
Dose and C	Quantity		
Directions			
Date of Ser	vice(s)		
STEP 1:	DISEASE STATE		
1. Is this	for Initiation or Continuation of therapy? 🔲 Initiation 🗌 Continuation	Date patient started therapy:	
	administration? Provider office/Home infusion Other:		
	Hospital outpatient facility (go to #3) Reason fo		
3. Please	specify location of administration if hospital outpatient infusion:		
4. Please	provide the NPI number for the place of administration:		
t c f f	 Please check the patient's diagnosis: Cryopyrin-Associated Periodic Syndromes (CAPS) with phenotyp (MWS) (go to c, d, and e) Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor Associated Periodic Syndrome (Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (SJIA) (go to f) Still's disease, including adult-onset Still's disease (go to f) Hyperimmunoglobulin D Syndrome (HIDS)/Mevalonate Kinase D Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) (go to g) Other CAPS: How was CAPS diagnosed? Genetic testing [such as in the Cold-Induced Auto-inflammatory Physical assessment (please attach assessment) Other: CAPS: Please provide C-reactive protein (CRP) and serum amyloid A CRP: CAPS: Please check which classic symptoms the member is experier Urticaria-like rash Cold-triggered episodes Sensorineur Skeletal abnormalities Other: SIIA or Still's disease: What medications has the patient tried and for NSAIDs Glucocorticoids Actemra 	Syndrome 1 (CIAS1 – also referred to as the NLRP-3)] (please attach results)	
	uation request: Ilaris start date I. Has the patient's condition improved while on therapy with Ilaris? I. Yes I. No Comment		
lease add any o	ther supporting medical information necessary for our review	n's signature and date are not reflected on this document.	
	edited review: I certify that applying the standard review time frame may seriously jeopar	dize the life or health of the member or the member's ability to regain maximum function	
Physician's Na		Date	
Step 2: Checklist	Form Completely Filled Out	Concurrent Medical Problems Prior Therapies	

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Step 3: Submit By Mail: BCBSM Specialty Pharmacy Program

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