

Temporary quantity limits on some prescription drugs during the COVID-19 pandemic

For Blue Cross commercial and Blue Care Network commercial members

April 2021

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network put temporary prescription drug quantity limits in place to protect medication supplies during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The temporary limits were in effect April 16, 2020 until April 1, 2021.

Effective April 1, 2021, these temporary quantity limits have ended with the exception of albuterol inhalers (see chart below). We previously covered four albuterol inhalers per 30 days. Effective April 1, we cover two inhalers per 30 days. This change is not related to the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The quantity limits were in place to prevent stockpiling of specific medications being used to manage COVID-19 symptoms for short-term courses of treatment. We put the limits in place to protect the supply of these medications so members who use these drugs to manage chronic medical conditions wouldn't have interruptions to their ongoing treatments.

All Blue Cross and BCN commercial members were subject to these temporary limits. They superseded other prescription quantity rules that customer groups may have had. These limits didn't apply to Medicare Plus BlueSM and BCN AdvantageSM members.

The quantity limits were waived for members using these prescription drugs to treat chronic conditions.

Drug	Quantity allowed per 365-day period
Chloroquine, 250 mg tablets	56 tablets
Chloroquine, 500 mg tablets	28 tablets
Plaquenil® (hydroxychloroquine), 200 mg tablets	30 tablets
Kaletra®, 200 mg/50 mg tablets	56 tablets
Kaletra®, 100 mg/25 mg tablets	112 tablets
Kaletra®, 80 mg-20 mg/ml oral solution	160 ml = 1 bottle

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Drug	Quantity allowed per 90-day period
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 100 mg/5 ml oral suspension, 15 ml	13 bottles = 195 ml
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 200 mg/5 ml oral suspension, 15 ml	7 bottles = 105 ml
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 200 mg/5 ml oral suspension, 22.5 ml	5 bottles = 112.5 ml
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 200 mg/5 ml oral suspension, 30 ml	4 bottles = 120 ml
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 250 mg tablet	15 tablets
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 500 mg tablet	15 tablets
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 600 mg tablet	24 tablets
Zithromax® (azithromycin), 1 g single-dose packet	2 packets

Drug	Quantity allowed per 30-day period as part of anti-stockpiling limits	Quantity limit prior to anti-stockpiling limits*	Quantity limit as of April 1, 2021*
ProAir HFA®, 90 mcg (albuterol sulfate)	1 inhaler = 8.5 grams	4 inhalers per 30 days	2 inhalers per 30 days
Proventil HFA®, 90 mcg (albuterol sulfate)	1 inhaler = 6.7 grams	4 inhalers per 30 days	2 inhalers per 30 days
Ventolin HFA®, 90 mcg (albuterol sulfate)	1 inhaler = 18 grams	4 inhalers per 30 days	2 inhalers per 30 days
ProAir Respiclick®, 90 mcg	1 inhaler = 1 gram	4 inhalers per 30 days	2 inhalers per 30 days
ProAir Digihaler®, 90 mcg	1 inhaler = 0.65 gram	4 inhalers per 30 days	2 inhalers per 30 days
Xopenex HFA®, 45 mcg (levalbuterol)	1 inhaler = 15 grams	2 inhalers per 30 days	2 inhalers per 30 days

*Quantity limit is listed but does not guarantee the drug is covered. Coverage is specific to a member's drug list.

We may place quantity limits on additional prescription drugs as the COVID-19 health crisis evolves.

How to submit quantity limit waiver requests

Physicians can submit quantity limit waiver requests through our standard prior authorization processes. The best way to do this is through practices' electronic health record software or through a free CoverMyMeds® account. Physicians usually receive approvals immediately when they submit requests electronically.

To request authorization electronically, [follow these steps](#).

To request authorization in writing, fax a *Medication Request Form – Quantity Limit Request* to the Blue Cross Pharmacy Clinical Help Desk at 1-866-601-4425. To find the form:

- Log in to web-DENIS.
- Click on *BCBSM Provider Publications and Resources*.
- Click on *Commercial Pharmacy Prior Authorization and Step Therapy forms*.
- Click on *Quantity Limit Request*.

If you have any questions, call the Pharmacy Clinical Help Desk at 1-800-437-3803.