

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

For Blue Cross' PPO (commercial) and
BCN HMOSM (commercial) members

April 2020

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network have put temporary prescription drug quantity limits in place to protect medication supplies during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The temporary limits went into effect April 16, 2020, and will remain in place until further notice.

The quantity limits will prevent stockpiling of specific, currently available medications that are now 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 won't have interruptions to their ongoing treatments.

All Blue Cross and BCN commercial members are subject to these temporary limits. They supersede other prescription quantity rules that customer groups may have. These limits don't apply to Medicare Plus Blue PPOSM and BCN Advantage HMOSM members.

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

Some members with chronic conditions who've filled prescriptions for these medications before March 1 will not be affected by the temporary quantity limits. If the pharmacy is unable to fill members' prescriptions, they'll need to ask their physicians to submit authorization requests with Blue Cross or BCN in order to document their chronic medical conditions before quantity limits on these drugs will be waived. When physicians do this electronically, they'll usually receive immediate approval.

The following drugs have temporary quantity limits.

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
ProAir HFA [®] , 90 mcg (albuterol sulfate)	1 inhaler = 8.5 grams
Proventil HFA [®] , 90 mcg (albuterol sulfate)	1 inhaler = 6.7 grams
Ventolin HFA [®] , 90 mcg (albuterol sulfate)	1 inhaler = 18 grams
ProAir Respiclick [®] , 90 mcg	1 inhaler = 1 gram
ProAir Digihaler [®] , 90 mcg	1 inhaler = 0.65 gram
Xopenex HFA [®] , 45 mcg (levalbuterol)	1 inhaler = 15 grams

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](#).



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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.