



IHCP COVID-19 Response: Certain respiratory inhalers resume pre-COVID-19 requirements

In response to the national public health emergency for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) implemented changes regarding pharmacy benefits. These changes temporarily suspended preference status of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)-related metered dose inhalers (MDIs) effective April 1, 2020. See *IHCP Bulletin* [BT202044](#).

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on or after August 1, 2020, the following pre-COVID-19 requirements will be resumed:

- Preferred status for controller inhalers (glucocorticoid and combination long-acting beta agonist/glucocorticoid MDIs) will resume. Members will need to have had an initial trial of a preferred MDI before they may receive a nonpreferred MDI:
 - Effective August 1, 2020, for members initiating therapy on nonpreferred controller inhalers
 - Effective November 1, 2020, for members currently on nonpreferred controller inhalers



Note: The temporary suspension of preference status for rescue inhalers (short-acting beta agonist MDIs) remains in effect.

This change applies to pharmacy benefits delivered under both the fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care delivery system.

For more information, direct FFS questions to the OptumRx Clinical and Technical Help Desk by calling toll-free 1-855-577-6317. Questions regarding pharmacy benefits for members in the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Healthwise, and Hoosier Care Connect should be referred to the managed care entity (MCE) with which the member is enrolled.

TO PRINT

A [printer-friendly version](#) of this publication, in black and white and without photos, is available for your convenience.

COPIES OF THIS PUBLICATION

If you need additional copies of this publication, please download them from the [Bulletins](#) page of the IHCP provider website at in.gov/medicaid/providers.

SIGN UP FOR IHCP EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

To receive email notices of IHCP publications, subscribe by clicking the blue subscription envelope or sign up from the [IHCP provider website](#) at in.gov/medicaid/providers.

