

Independence Blue Cross

Important information about self-injectable drug changes

Independence Blue Cross (IBC) is committed to finding real solutions to complex health care issues facing our customers today so that we can continue to build the good health of our members; provide convenient access to affordable, quality care; and strengthen the health of our community. Our latest initiative addresses the challenges associated with self-injectable medications.

In an effort to provide greater access to self-injectable medications for our members and better manage the cost of these drugs, we are changing the way we cover self-injectable drugs effective July 1, 2010. Below are some questions and answers to help explain these changes and why we are making them.

Q: What is a self-injectable drug?

A: A self-injectable drug is a prescription drug that is delivered into a muscle or under the skin with a syringe and needle. Although medical supervision or instruction may be needed in the beginning, the patient or caregiver can administer self-injectable drugs safely and effectively.

Q: How is self-injectable drug coverage changing, and what do these changes mean to me?

A: Starting on July 1, 2010, IBC will provide benefits for self-injectable drugs under its prescription drug plans only. (Currently, you have coverage for self-injectable drugs under your medical plan at two cost-sharing levels – standard injectables and Biotech Specialty injectables – and under your IBC prescription drug plan). In addition, we are enhancing your prescription drug plan to include coverage for self-injectable growth hormones, subject to prior authorization.

If your doctor prescribes a self-injectable drug, you no longer will need to make an appointment for an office visit to get your medication. Just like other drugs you may be taking, you can fill your prescription at any participating retail pharmacy. You will be responsible for paying the appropriate member cost-sharing under your prescription drug plan. If you need to take the self-injectable drug on an ongoing basis, you can also use our convenient mail-order service and receive up to a 90-day supply at a lower cost to you.

Q: What Biotech Specialty medications are considered self-injectables?

A: The Biotech Specialty medications that are considered to be self-injectable drugs are:

- Actimmune[®]
- Arixtra[®]
- Avonex[®]
- Betaseron[®]
- Copaxone[®]
- Enbrel[®]
- Forteo[™]
- Fragmin[®]
- Fuzeon[®]
- Genotropin[®]
- Humatrope[®]
- Humira[®]
- Imitrex Inj.[®]
- Increlex[™]
- Infergen[®]
- Innohep[®]
- Intron[®] A
- Kineret[®]
- Lovenox[®]
- Norditropin[®]
- Nutropin[®] (AQ)
- Omnitrope[™]
- Pegasys[®]
- Peg-Intron[™]
- Raptiva[®]
- Rebif[®]
- Saizen[®]
- Serostim[®] (LQ)
- Somavert[®]
- Tev-Tropin[®]
- Zorbtive[®]

Starting on July 1, 2010, these drugs will be covered under your prescription drug plan only.

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Q: When are these changes going to happen?

A: All changes for self-injectable drugs will be effective for any services performed or prescription drugs purchased on or after July 1, 2010.

Q: Why is IBC making this change?

A: The affected self-injectable drugs have become mainstream drugs that patients are used to administering themselves. These drugs do not require physician monitoring and are routinely available through retail pharmacies. By moving these self-injectable drugs under the pharmacy drug benefits, IBC is making it easier for you to obtain self-injectable drugs at the pharmacy, as you do your other prescriptions.

Q: Will any self-injectable medications be covered under the medical benefits programs?

A: Yes. Generally, we will continue to cover self-injectables under the medical plan at the appropriate standard or Biotech Specialty injectable cost-sharing level if:

- they cannot be self-administered without medical supervision;
- they are required by law to be covered (e.g., insulin);
- they are required for emergency treatment, such as self-injectables that effectively counteract allergic reactions under the medical benefits program (e.g., EpiPen®).

