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Drug Use Research & Management Program
Oregon State University, 500 Summer Street NE, E35
Salem, Oregon 97301-1079
Phone 503-947-5220 | **Fax** 503-947-2596

Policy Update: Healthier Oregon Program

Program Updates and Changes:

Healthier Oregon is a program that offers free health coverage through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) for people of any immigration status who live in Oregon and meet income and other eligibility requirements for OHP. Unlike traditional Medicaid, non-emergency services (including most drug coverage) for members enrolled through Healthier Oregon are funded by the state and are not eligible for federal matching funds or Medicaid drug rebates.

In April 2026, about 99,400 members in Healthier Oregon were enrolled in coordinated care organizations (CCOs). However, beginning in January 2027, these members will move to OHP Open Card (also called the fee-for-service program). This will double the current OHP Open Card population which enrolls about 98,700 members through the Medicaid program.

As a result of these changes and because of the differences in funding between the Healthier Oregon and Medicaid populations, the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee will need to re-evaluate choice of products on the preferred drug list (PDL). The P&T Committee is charged with evaluating comparative efficacy and safety of prescription drugs to inform PDL decisions. In the absence of differences in efficacy or safety, the P&T committee evaluates comparative drug costs. With such a large proportion of members enrolled through Healthier Oregon who are not eligible for Medicaid rebates, the most cost effective products for the state may be those with the lowest upfront costs.

PDL classes for which the P&T Committee has recently reviewed evidence of efficacy and safety will be brought back to the P&T committee as old business to evaluate utilization for Healthier Oregon members and pricing. The following classes have been recently reviewed by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. Included drugs, PDL status, and prior authorization criteria are referenced in the previous P&T documents.

PDL Class	Last P&T Review Date
Drugs for Dry Eye Disease	June 2025

Recommendation:

- After evaluation of costs in executive session, generic cyclosporine dropperette was made preferred.

Author: Servid

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