

Delivering clinical effectiveness and cost control through the Medication Assurance Program

The Medication Assurance Program, a proprietary Excellus BlueCross BlueShield designed solution, supports our commitment to covering safe, clinically effective medications by holding drug manufacturers accountable for medications approved through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Accelerated Approval Program.

These medications enter the market quickly and are often expensive, even without confirmed clinical benefit. Drug manufacturers are required to complete post-approval studies to demonstrate effectiveness or risk losing FDA approval and market access.

Self-funded groups can opt-in to the Medication Assurance Program at no additional cost.

Understanding how the Medication Assurance Program works

Excellus BCBS asks that drug manufacturers stand behind their medications approved through the FDA Accelerated Approval Process.



If the drug manufacturer does not agree to the terms of Excellus BCBS's Medication Assurance Program requirements, then the medication will not be covered and excluded under the benefit.



If the drug manufacturer does agree to the terms of Excellus BCBS's Medication Assurance Program requirements and a medication fails to meet those requirements, Excellus BCBS shares 85% of the financial reimbursement received with the group.

Employer pharmacy cost avoidance/savings containment comes from two aspects of the program

- 1** The drug manufacturer does not agree to participate in the Medication Assurance Program – cost avoidance from medications being excluded.
- 2** The drug manufacturer does agree to participate in the Medication Assurance Program but the medication did not meet the program requirements. An 85% shared savings credit is given to the employer.



Our commitment to you:

Reinforces our commitment to ensuring the medications we cover are safe, clinically effective, and deliver measurable value.

Key facts about FDA accelerated approval

- Accelerated medications can be eligible for prescribing before full effectiveness is confirmed
- Pharmaceutical companies must complete follow-up studies to maintain FDA approval
- If studies fail or are not completed, the FDA can remove the medication from the market

How to access the Medication Assurance Program medication list:

A list of FDA excluded accelerated medications can be found at: [Medication Assurance Program](#)

If an employee is taking a medication excluded from the benefit

If a medication is excluded as part of the Medication Assurance Program, it means the medication will not be covered. Employees can contact Customer Care for personalized support, including:

- Alternative medications to discuss with their provider
- Assistance applying for manufacturer financial support if they choose to continue the medication



**\$4.2
million**

**2025 estimated
cost avoidance**



**To learn more about the Medication Assurance Program,
please contact your Account Representative.**