

PROTECT
Formulary Optimization for Low Clinical Value Medications

Low Clinical Value Medication Alternatives

07/01/2025 additions highlighted
07/01/2025 removals highlighted

Our Formulary Optimization program provides protection to clients and their members. Using our clinical expertise, we prevent unnecessary spending by removing Low Clinical Value medications from the formulary and provide better alternatives – equal or more effective medications at a lower cost. By applying our clinical expertise to remove high dollar, non-essential drugs, employers optimize clinical and financial results for their plan and their members.

Excluded Medication*	Use	Cost of Excluded Med	Alternative Therapy	Cost of Alternative
Antibiotic and Antifungal Agents				
Tolsura (itraconazole) 65 mg capsule	Systemic fungal infections	\$2,200/30 days	Generic Rx itraconazole 100 mg capsule	\$140/30 days
Anti-inflammatory and Analgesic Agents				
diclofenac 1.5% topical solution	Osteoarthritis of the knee	\$35/150 ml bottle	OTC topical analgesic (ex Voltaren/diclofenac gel, capsaicin) or oral NSAID agent (Rx or OTC)	\$5-\$20/30 days
Duexis (ibuprofen & famotidine) tablet	Osteoarthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis	\$1,600/30 days	Generic OTC or Rx NSAID (ibuprofen) + generic acid reducer (famotidine)	\$35 for OTCs
fenoprofen calcium 200 mg capsule	Osteoarthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis	\$2,374/30 days	Generic OTC or Rx NSAID	<\$10 for OTCs
Flector (diclofenac) 1.3% patch	Acute pain control	\$300/30 patches	Oral OTC or Rx NSAIDs, OTC topical analgesic (ex Voltaren/diclofenac gel, capsaicin), or OTC pain patches	\$5-\$20/30 days
Gloperba (colchicine) oral solution	Gout	\$625/150 ml bottle	Generic colchicine tablets and capsules	<\$40/30 days
Indocin (indomethacin) suppositories	Gout	>\$100 per suppository	Generic OTC or Rx NSAID	<\$1 per capsule
Mitigare (colchicine) capsule	Gout	\$360/30 days	Generic colchicine 0.6mg tablet	\$124/30 days
Nalocet (oxycodone with 300 mg acetaminophen) tablet	Pain control	\$1,500/30 tablets	Generic oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets (with 325 mg acetaminophen)	\$40/30 tablets
Naprelan (naproxen) ER tablet	Osteoarthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis	\$670/30 days	OTC Naproxen	<\$20 for OTCs
Norgesic / Norgesic Forte (orphenadrine, aspirin & caffeine) tablet	Musculoskeletal Pain	\$3,300/30 days	Generic orphenadrine (non-combination) or other generic NSAID	\$100/30 days or <\$10 for OTC
Orphenesic Forte (orphenadrine, aspirin & caffeine) tablet	Musculoskeletal Pain	\$2,800/30 days	Generic orphenadrine (non-combination) or other generic NSAID	\$100/30 days or <\$10 for OTC
Pennsaid (diclofenac) 2% topical solution	Osteoarthritis of the knee	\$1,200/bottle	OTC topical analgesic (ex Voltaren Gel OTC, Capsaicin) or oral NSAID agent (Rx or OTC)	\$5-\$20/30 days
Prolate (oxycodone with 300 mg acetaminophen) tablet	Pain control	\$800/30 tablets	Generic oxycodone and acetaminophen tablets (with 325 mg acetaminophen)	<\$20/30 tablets
Prolate (oxycodone with 300 mg acetaminophen) solution	Pain control	\$1,500/120 ml bottle	Generic oxycodone and acetaminophen solution (with 325 mg acetaminophen per 5 ml)	\$145/120 ml bottle
Seglentis (tramadol & celecoxib) tablet	Acute pain control	\$520/30 days	Generic tramadol and generic celecoxib	\$20/30 days (each)
Vimovo (naproxen & esomeprazole) tablet	Osteoarthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis	\$2,400/30 days	Generic OTC NSAID (naproxen) + proton-pump inhibitor (esomeprazole)	\$35 for OTCs
Vivlodex (meloxicam) capsule	Osteoarthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis	\$840/30 days	Generic NSAID (Meloxicam tablet)	\$25/30 days
Zipsor (diclofenac) capsule	Osteoarthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis	\$1,340/30 days	Generic OTC or Rx NSAID	<\$10 for OTCs
Cardiovascular Agents				
Antihyperlipidemic				
Atorvaliq (atorvastatin) suspension	High cholesterol	\$215/150 ml bottle	Generic Rx atorvastatin tablets	\$15/30 tablets
Fenoglide (fenofibrate) 120mg tablet	High triglycerides	\$660/30 days	Other dosage forms and strengths of generic fenofibrate	\$70/30 days
Lovaza (omega-3-acid ethyl esters) capsule	High triglycerides	\$460/30 days	Generic OTC omega-3 fatty acids	<\$25 for OTCs
Niacor (niacin) tablet	High triglycerides	\$570/30 days	OTC Niacin	<\$20 for OTCs
Diuretics				
CaroSpir (spironolactone) suspension	Diuretic/cardiovascular agent	\$480/118 ml	Generic Rx spironolactone tablets (can be compounded to liquid by a pharmacist)	\$51/equivalent tablets
Central Nervous System Agents				
Antidepressive Agents				
Aplenzin (bupropion) ER tablet	Depression	\$3,000/30 days	Generic bupropion HCL ER or immediate release tablets	\$250/30 days
Auvelity (bupropion & dextromethorphan)	Depression	\$980/30 days	Generic bupropion XL tablet	\$250/30 days
venlafaxine ER tablet	Depression/anxiety/social anxiety	> \$185/30 days	Generic venlafaxine ER capsules or immediate release venlafaxine	<\$50/30 days
Anti-Parkinson Agents				
Gocovri (amantadine) ER capsule	Parkinson's tremors	\$2,650/30 days	Generic Rx immediate release amantadine	\$38/30 days
Osmolex ER (amantadine) ER tablet	Parkinson's tremors	\$460/30 days	Generic Rx immediate release amantadine	\$38/30 days
Rytary (carbidopa & levodopa) ER capsule	Parkinson's tremors	\$1,340/360 tabs	Generic Carbidopa-Levodopa ER tab	\$220/360 tabs
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Agents				
Onyda XR (clonidine HCl) ER suspension	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder	\$400/30 ml bottle	Generic clonidine ER tablet	\$55/60 tabs
Hypnotics/Sedatives/Sleep Disorder Agents				
Edluar (zolpidem) SL tablet	Insomnia	\$400/30 tabs	Generic Rx zolpidem (Ambien)	\$15/30 tabs
Intermezzo (zolpidem) SL tablet	Insomnia	\$175/30 tabs	Generic Rx zolpidem (Ambien)	\$15/30 tabs
Migraine Products				
Allzital (acetaminophen & butalbital) tablet	Migraine relief	\$135/ 30 tabs	Generic OTC or Rx acetaminophen or NSAID; or other generic butalbital-acetaminophen combination	\$20/30 tabs
Cambia (diclofenac) powder packet	Migraine relief	\$650/9 packets	Generic Rx antimigraine agent such as sumatriptan (Imitrex)	\$20/9 tabs
Elyxyb (celecoxib) oral solution	Migraine relief	\$830/6 vials	Ibuprofen solution 100 mg per 5 ml or generic celecoxib 100 mg capsules	\$10/7 caps or <\$10 for OTC
Onzetra Xsail (sumatriptan) nasal powder	Migraine relief	\$900/16 capsule unit	Generic sumatriptan (Imitrex) tablets or nasal spray	\$20/9 tabs
Tosymra (sumatriptan) nasal spray	Migraine relief	\$675/box	Generic Rx antimigraine agent such as sumatriptan (Imitrex)	\$20/9 tabs
Treximet (sumatriptan & naproxen) tablet	Migraine relief	\$1,300/9 tabs	Generic Rx sumatriptan (Imitrex) + as needed OTC NSAID (naproxen)	\$20/9 tabs
Zembrace Symtouch (sumatriptan) sc inj	Migraine relief	\$830/box	Generic Rx antimigraine agent such as sumatriptan (Imitrex)	\$20/9 tabs or \$75/2 inj
Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents				
Amrix (cyclobenzaprine) ER capsule	Muscle relaxant	\$1,700/30 caps	Generic Rx cyclobenzaprine 5 mg or 10 mg tablet	\$25/30 days
chlorzoxazone 250 mg tablet	Muscle relaxant	\$2,000/120 tabs	Immediate release cyclobenzaprine 5 or 10 mg tablet or chlorzoxazone 500 mg tablet	\$25/90 tabs
Fexmid (cyclobenzaprine) 7.5 mg tablet	Muscle relaxant	\$250/30 tabs	Generic Rx cyclobenzaprine 5 mg or 10 mg tablet	\$25/30 days
Lorzone (chlorzoxazone) 375 mg and 750 mg tablets	Muscle relaxant	\$390/30 days	NSAIDS, generic chlorzoxazone 500 mg tablet	\$25/90 tabs
Neurological Agents				
Eprontia (topiramate) oral solution	Migraine prevention or anticonvulsant	\$500/30 days	Generic Rx immediate release topiramate (Topamax)	\$150/30 days
Gralise (gabapentin) ER tablet	Postherpetic neuralgia (nerve condition)	\$915/30 days of max dose	Generic Rx immediate release gabapentin (Neurontin)	\$40/30 days of max dose
Horizant (gabapentin) ER tablet	Postherpetic neuralgia (nerve condition)	\$875/30 days of max dose	Generic Rx immediate release gabapentin (Neurontin)	\$40/30 days of max dose
Qudexy (topiramate) XR sprinkle capsule	Migraine prevention or anticonvulsant	\$900/30 days	Generic Rx immediate release topiramate (Topamax)	\$150/30 days
Trokendi XR (topiramate) ER capsule	Migraine prevention or anticonvulsant	\$850/30 days	Generic Rx immediate release topiramate (Topamax)	\$150/30 days
Dermatological Agents				
Acne Agents				
Aklief (trifarotene) cream	Acne	\$675/45 g tube	Generic topical OTC adapalene 0.1%, generic topical tazarotene cream 0.1%, or tretinoin cream	<\$100/30 g for Rx's & <\$20 for OTCs
Amzeeq (minocycline) topical foam	Acne	\$470/can	Topical generic clindamycin 1% gel or lotion	\$48/bottle
Doryx (doxycycline hyclate) DR tablet	Acne	\$950/30 tabs	Doxycycline hyclate immediate release or doxycycline monohydrate immediate release	\$20/30 tabs
Doryx MPC (doxycycline hyclate) DR tablet	Acne	\$360/30 tabs	Doxycycline hyclate immediate release or doxycycline monohydrate immediate release	\$20/30 tabs
Epiduo Forte (adapalene & benzyl peroxide)	Topical antiseptic/acne	\$675/45g tube	OTC adapalene (Differin gel) and benzoyl peroxide (Clean & Clear Persa-Gel 10)	<\$20 for OTCs
Epsolay (benzoyl peroxide) 5% cream	Topical acne cream/rosacea inflammatory lesions	\$484/30g pump	OTC benzoyl peroxide	<\$10 for OTCs
Minolira (minocycline) ER	Acne	\$559/30 tabs	Generic immediate release minocycline tablets	<\$100/30 tabs
TargaDOX (doxycycline) tablet	Acne	\$600/60 tabs	Doxycycline hyclate immediate release or Doxycycline monohydrate immediate release	\$20/30 tabs
Twynéo (tretinoin & benzoyl peroxide)	Acne	\$450/30g tube	Generic tretinoin cream and OTC benzoyl peroxide	<\$50/20g & <\$10 for OTCs
Ximino (minocycline) ER capsule	Acne	\$793/30 days	Generic immediate release minocycline tablets	<\$100/30 tabs
Antifungal Agents				
Jublia (efinaconazole) solution	Toe nail fungus	\$840/4 ml bottle	Oral generic Rx terbinafine (Lamisil)	\$25/30 tabs
Kerydin (tavaborole) solution	Toe nail fungus	\$167/10 ml bottle	Oral generic Rx terbinafine (Lamisil)	\$25/30 tabs
Luzu (luliconazole) 1% cream	Topical antifungal	\$472/60g tube	Topical OTC antifungal such as Lotrimin or topical generic Rx such as ketoconazole	<\$25 for OTCs
Vusion (miconazole & zinc oxide)	Topical antifungal	\$580/50 g tube	OTC Destin + OTC miconazole cream	<\$20 for OTCs
Xolegel (ketoconazole) 2% gel (including combination products)	Topical antifungal	\$770/45g tube	Topical OTC antifungal such as Lotrimin or topical generic Rx such as ketoconazole	<\$25 for OTCs

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Excluded Medication*	Use	Cost of Excluded Med	Alternative Therapy	Cost of Alternative
Dermatological Agents Continued				
Antiviral Agents				
Denavir (penciclovir) cream	Herpes labialis (cold sores)	\$815/5g tube	Generic acyclovir ointment	\$35/5g tube
Sitavig (acyclovir) buccal tablet	Oral antiviral (treatment for cold sores)	\$660/treatment course	OTC topical antiviral (Abreva)	<\$20 for OTCs
Xerese (acyclovir & hydrocortisone) cream	Topical antiviral and steroid (treatment for cold sores)	\$1,265/5 g tube	Acyclovir ointment 5% plus OTC 1% hydrocortisone ointment	\$35 for Rx & <\$10 for OTCs
Skin Lubricants, Moisturizers, or Barriers				
Aladerm Plus	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$1,175/60 ml bottle	OTC topical lidocaine with emollient such as Vaseline or Aquaphor	<\$20 for OTCs
Ceracade	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$370/270 g tube	OTC topical emollient such as Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Aloe	<\$20 for OTCs
Emulsion SB	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$3,000/90 g tube	OTC topical emollient such as Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Aloe	<\$20 for OTCs
Entty emulsion spray	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$123/90 ml bottle	OTC topical emollient such as Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Aloe	<\$20 for OTCs
EpiCeram skin barrier	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$5,586/90g tube	OTC topical emollient such as Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Aloe	<\$20 for OTCs
Iliderm	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$1,200/250 ml bottle	OTC topical lidocaine with emollient such as Vaseline or Aquaphor	<\$20 for OTCs
KamDoy Rx skin emulsion	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$1,367/60 ml bottle	OTC topical lidocaine with emollient such as Vaseline or Aquaphor	<\$20 for OTCs
Penlen	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$1,300/90 ml bottle	OTC topical emollient such as Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Aloe	<\$20 for OTCs
Prudoxin (doxepin) 5% cream	Topical emollient	\$692/45g tube	OTC diphenhydramine or topical OTC or Rx steroid cream	<\$20 for OTCs
Synerderm emulsion	Skin lubricant, moisturizer, or barrier	\$1,314/60 ml bottle	OTC topical emollient such as Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Aloe	<\$20 for OTCs
Wound dressings - all product types	Topical emollient	\$550/4-pad pack	OTC Duoderm products	<\$20 for OTCs
Zonalon (doxepin) 5% cream	Topical emollient	\$692/45g tube	OTC diphenhydramine or topical OTC or Rx steroid cream	<\$20 for OTCs
Topical Steroids				
Alcortin A (iodoquinol & hydrocortisone) external gel	Non-inflammatory skin disease	\$7,841/48g tube	Generic Rx iodoquinol & hydrocortisone cream (Dermazene or Vytone)	\$96/30g tube
Bryhali (halobetasol) 0.01% lotion	Topical steroid lotion	\$340/60g tube	Generic Rx topical steroid such as clobetasol or alternate halobetasol formulation	\$65/60g tube
Cordran (flurandrenolide) cream, lotion, ointment, & tape	Topical steroid	\$100 - \$700/each	Generic Rx topical steroid such as clobetasol or halobetasol formulation	\$65/60g tube
Duobrii (halobetasol & tazarotene)	Topical steroid	\$1,049/100g tube	Generic Rx topical steroid such as halobetasol or clobetasol + tazarotene	<\$500/30 days
Kenalog (triamcinolone) spray	Topical steroid spray	\$130/100g bottle	Generic Rx topical steroid in cream or lotion formulation such as betamethasone 0.1% or fluticasone	\$20 - \$30/60g
Pramosone (pramoxine & hydrocortisone) cream	Non-inflammatory skin disease	\$359/60g tube	Generic Rx topical corticosteroid or OTC Preparation H	<\$10 for OTCs
Psorcon (diflorasone) cream	Topical steroid	\$265/60g tube	Generic Rx topical steroid such as betamethasone cream or ointment or fluticasone ointment	\$20 - \$35/60g
Sernivo (betamethasone)	Topical steroid	\$850/120 ml bottle	Generic Rx topical steroid in cream or lotion formulation such as betamethasone 0.1% or fluticasone	\$20 - \$35/60g
Wynzora (calcipotriene and betamethasone) cream	Topical steroid	\$1,100/60g tube	Generic Rx topical calcipotriene and betamethasone ointment	\$320/60g tube
Topical - Other Agents				
**DermacinRx - all product extensions/types	Topical steroid/analgesic/anti-inflammatory	\$300/pack	Generic OTC topical analgesics, corticosteroids, or anti-inflammatory PLUS hydrating agents like petroleum jelly	\$5/30 g - \$65/60 g tube
Endocrine and Metabolic Agents				
Antidiabetics				
Fortamet (metformin, ER, osmotic release)	Oral antidiabetic agent	\$210/60 tabs	Generic Rx metformin ER (Glucophage XR tablet formulation)	\$15/30 days of max dose
Glimepiride 3 mg tablet	Oral antidiabetic agent	\$400/30 days	Generic glimepiride 1 mg, 2 mg, or 4 mg tablets	<\$30/30 days
Glumetza (metformin, ER modified release)	Oral antidiabetic agent	\$1,500/30 days of max dose	Generic Rx metformin ER (Glucophage XR tablet formulation)	\$15/30 days of max dose
Corticosteroids				
Hemady (dexamethasone) tablet	Steroidal anti-inflammatory	\$33 per tablet	Generic Rx dexamethasone tablet	<\$1 per tablet
Rayos (prednisone, DR) tablet	Steroidal anti-inflammatory	\$88 per tablet	Generic Rx prednisone or methylprednisolone IR tablet	<\$1 per tablet
Gastrointestinal Agents				
Bonjesta (doxylamine & pyridoxine) tablet	Nausea/vomiting	\$720/30 days	OTC vitamin B6 + Unisom	<\$25 for OTCs of max dose
Dexilant (dexlansoprazole) capsule	Indigestion/Gastroesophageal reflux disease	\$434/30 days	Generic Rx or OTC proton-pump inhibitor	<\$25 for OTCs
Diclegis (doxylamine & pyridoxine) tablet	Nausea/vomiting	\$629/30 days of max dose	OTC vitamin B6 + Unisom	<\$25 for OTCs of max dose
Glycate (glycopyrrolate) 1.5 mg tablet	Ulcer adjunctive therapy	\$2,000/60 tablets	glycopyrrolate 1 mg or 2 mg tablet	<\$30/60 tablets
lactulose 10 gram packet	Constipation/Hepatic encephalopathy	\$275/box of 30 packets	Generic lactulose 10 grams per 15 ml solution	<\$20 for 30 days
Zegerid (omeprazole & sodium bicarbonate) capsule	Heart burn	\$525/30 days	Generic Rx or OTC proton-pump inhibitor + OTC Tums	<\$25 for OTCs
Hematological Agents				
Yosprala (aspirin & omeprazole) tablet	Secondary prevention of cardiovascular event	\$652/30 days	Generic OTC aspirin + OTC omeprazole (Prilosec)	<\$25 for OTCs
Nutrients and Nutritional Agents				
Dietary Management agents				
(such as Vasculera, Xyzbac, and others)	Dietary supplement	\$875/30 days	OTC multivitamin plus OTC CoQ10 + Rx folic acid	<\$25 for OTCs
Folic Acid/Vitamin D supplements				
(such as Folixapure, Folixate, Foltrexyl, and others)	Folic Acid/Vitamin D Supplement	\$1,800/30 days	OTC oral vitamin D + Rx folic acid	<\$25 for OTCs
Multi-vitamin dietary supplements				
(such as One-A-Day, Thera-tab, Therems, and others)	Dietary supplement	\$25/30 days	OTC multivitamin plus OTC CoQ10 + Rx folic acid	<\$25 for OTCs
Nascobal (cyanocobalamin) nasal solution	Vitamin B-12 supplement	\$880/30 days	OTC oral vitamin B-12 or Rx injectable vitamin B-12	<\$10 for OTC or Rx
Ophthalmic and Otic Agents				
Cequa (cyclosporine) 0.09% ophthalmic solution	Dry eye relief	\$550/30 days	OTC ophthalmic lubricants	<\$20 for OTCs
Miebo (perfluorohexyloctane) ophthalmic solution	Dry eye relief	\$770/5 ml bottle	OTC eye lubricant and generic Rx cyclosporine eye drops	<\$20 for OTCs and <\$200 for Rx
Tyrvaya (varenicline) nasal solution	Dry eye relief	\$620/carton of 2 bottles	OTC lubricating eye drops	<\$20 for OTCs
Vuity (pilocarpine) 1.25% ophthalmic solution	Age-related blurry near vision	\$90/bottle	Generic pilocarpine eye drops 1%, corrective lenses	\$35/bottle
Vyzulta (latanoprostene) 0.024% ophthalmic solution	Glaucoma	\$235/2.5 ml bottle	Generic Rx latanoprost (Xalatan)	\$10/2.5 ml bottle
Xelpros (latanoprost) 0.005% ophthalmic emulsion	Glaucoma	\$58/2.5 ml bottle	Generic Rx latanoprost (Xalatan)	\$10/2.5 ml bottle
Xiidra (lifitegrast) 5% ophthalmic solution	Dry eye disease	\$670/box of 60 single use containers	OTC ophthalmic antihistamine, OTC ophthalmic lubricant, or Rx generic antihistamine	<\$20 for OTCs
Respiratory Agents				
Cough/Cold/Allergy/Antihistamine				
Ryclora (dexchlorpheniramine maleate) oral solution	Allergy relief	\$300/118 ml bottle	OTC or generic Rx antihistamines	<\$20/30 doses
Ryvent (carbinoxamine maleate) 6 mg tablet	Allergy relief	\$900/30 days	Generic OTC antihistamines	<\$20/30 tabs
Nasal Agents- Systemic And Topical				
Sinuva (mometasone) nasal implant	Nasal polyps	\$3,100/implant	OTC fluticasone (Flonase) nasal spray or oral antihistamine + decongestant	<\$20 for OTCs
Xhance (fluticasone) nasal spray	Allergy relief	\$585/16 ml bottle	OTC fluticasone (Flonase) nasal spray or oral antihistamine + decongestant	<\$20/bottle for OTC

* Any current or future generic alternatives of the listed brand medications also are excluded.
**All formulations of DermacinRx are excluded, alternatives will be dependent upon individual formulation

PROTECT

Protect ensures the prescription drug program is optimized to save clients money and create a high level of member satisfaction. Find out how low clinical value medications are impacting your clients' pharmacy plan. On average, clients save 1.5% - 2%.