

Oregon Health Plan (OHP) prescribers – Changes to fee-for-service coverage of thyroid hormones

Prior authorization (PA) requirements effective October 1, 2022, for non-preferred products

Starting October 1, 2022, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will require PA for fee-for-service prescriptions of non-preferred thyroid hormones. If the prescription does not have an approved PA, OHA will deny the claim. This change applies to the following non-preferred brand and generic formulations:

- Levothyroxine capsules (e.g., TIROSINT)
- Levothyroxine solution (e.g., THYQUIDITY, TIROSINT-SOL)
- Thyroid, pork tablets (e.g., ARMOUR THYROID, NP THYROID)
- Liothyroine tablets (e.g., CYTOMEL)

OHA will use the non-preferred PA criteria for this class, posted at https://www.orpdl.org/durm/PA_Docs/general/NonPreferredPDL.pdf:

- Administration must be for FDA-approved indications and OHP-funded diagnoses.
- Congenital and acquired hypothyroidism are currently funded diagnoses.

Levothyroxine sodium tablets are the preferred product and will remain available without PA.

Why is this happening?

Current clinical practice guidelines recommend levothyroxine as a preferred first-line treatment for hypothyroidism. Other formulations of thyroid hormone have insufficient evidence for use and are not recommended. The complete evidence review is available online:

<https://www.orpdl.org/drugs/drugclass.php?cid=1182>. Select the link under “PDL Reference Documents.”

What should you do?

For fee-for-service patients currently prescribed non-preferred thyroid hormone formulations, please do the following before their next scheduled prescription refill:

- Switch eligible patients to preferred levothyroxine tablets if medically appropriate, or
- Request PA for non-preferred thyroid hormone formulations. In the request, include:
 - All required information, including all relevant ICD-10 diagnosis codes for primary and comorbid conditions.
 - Documentation that explains why the preferred levothyroxine tablets are not medically appropriate.

You can submit PA requests three ways:

1. Call the Oregon Pharmacy Call Center at 888-202-2126;
2. Submit via the secure Provider Web Portal at <https://www.or-medicaid.gov>; or
3. Fax to 888-346-0178. Use the form at <https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/he3978.pdf>.

Questions?

- **About PA for fee-for-service prescriptions:** Call the Oregon Pharmacy Call Center at 888-202-2126.
- **About using the Provider Web Portal:** Contact the Provider Services Unit at dmap.providerservices@dhsosha.state.or.us or call 800-336-6016.
- **About physical health prescriptions for patients in a coordinated care organization (CCO):** Contact the CCO.