

Medical and Payment Policy Updates

On August 1, 2025, new payment and medical policy updates go into effect.

Medical Policy Updates

Payment Policy Updates

Pharmacy Updates

- **Cabenuva**, a long-acting antiretroviral for HIV-1, is on the formulary as a Tier 2 preferred brand with no prior authorization requirements.
- **Namzaric**, a medication for treating symptoms of moderate to severe Alzheimer's, has a generic available, memantine/donepezil, that is a Tier 1 generic on the formulary.
- **DPP4-inhibitor medications** for diabetes, such as Saxagliptin (Tier 1), Januvia (Tier 2), and Tradjenta (Tier 2), no longer have Step Therapy requirements and can be initiated without trialing other medications.
- **Twist**, insulin infusion pump kits, are available as a Tier 2 preferred brand with no prior authorization requirements.
- **Humira biosimilars, Amjevita for Nuvaila, Simlandi, and Adalimumab-adbm** continue to be the preferred biosimilars on the formulary. Simlandi 20 mg prefilled syringes and Simlandi 80 mg pens and pre-filled syringes are now available in addition to the 40 mg pens and syringes.

Questions? Reach out to our Clinical Pharmacist, Amy Stoll, PharmD at stolla@bcbsvt.com or 802-371-3657 to discuss drug coverage or clinical questions.

Drug Policies

Covered Medications

Help Us Control Healthcare Costs

Nationally, healthcare fraud is a major contributor to the increase in healthcare costs. It's a serious crime and accounts for an estimated 3-10% of all healthcare spending. We take it very seriously and have a proactive approach to detecting and investigating potential fraud, waste, and abuse through our Payment Integrity and Claims Monitoring teams.

If you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse in the healthcare system, you should report it to Blue Cross VT, and we will investigate. Your actions may help to improve the healthcare system and reduce costs for our members, customers, and business partners. You may remain anonymous if you prefer.

To report fraud, waste, or abuse, you can call our Fraud Hotline at (833) 225-3810, email Fraud_issues@bcbsvt.com, or write to us at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, PO Box 186, Montpelier, VT 05601-0186, Attn: Payment Integrity Department.

2026 Coverage Changes for GLP-1 Drugs

Beginning January 1, 2026, Blue Cross VT will no longer cover prescription GLP-1 drugs that are FDA-approved for weight management, such as Wegovy[®], Zepbound[®], and Saxenda[®], for Qualified Health Plan (QHP) and Blue Edge Business members. For members with these plans, we will continue to cover GLP-1 drugs prescribed as a treatment for members with Type 2 diabetes.

Members who are affected by this coverage change were notified by mail the week of May 12. If they choose to continue using GLP-1 medications for weight management on or after January 1, 2026, they will be responsible for the full cost. For additional information on this upcoming change in drug coverage, please contact our Customer Service team at (800) 924-3494 or view the FAQ document we developed for members.

[GLP-1 FAQs](#)

New In-Network Independent Laboratory Options

- **LabCorp** now offers a lab draw station at 185 Tilley Drive, South Burlington, VT. It is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Appointments can be schedule by calling (802) 949-0966, or you can fax your lab orders to (833) 650-1037.
- **Omniseq, Inc.**, an oncology lab service, has been added to our lab network as of May 2025.
- In the Rutland area, **Quest** has an in-network lab draw station. Quest is located at 11 Common Street, Rutland, VT. Quest can be reached via phone at (802) 774-8341, fax at (802) 747-0031, or you can schedule an appointment online.

[View the complete list of in-network independent lab services.](#)

Provider Handbook Updates

The provider handbook has been updated to reflect changes related to BlueCard modifier -GY and member billing.

[View Updates](#)

July 4, 2025 Electronic Fund Transfer Reminder

Due to the holiday on Friday, July 4, 2025, the weekly Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) will occur on Monday, July 7, 2025.

Coding Corner: Cancer

Solid-tumor cancer diagnoses often result in coding errors. Accurate documentation of active versus historical cancer diagnoses ensures patients' medical records reflect their current diagnoses status, supports public health efforts, and helps guarantee proper provider payment.

Cancer is considered active when:

- The patient is currently and actively being treated and managed for cancer, such as:
 - Current chemotherapy, radiation, or anti-neoplasm drug therapy
 - Current pathology revealing cancer
 - A newly diagnosed patient awaiting treatment
 - Affirmation of current disease management
 - Refusal of therapeutic treatment by patient or watchful waiting
- The cancerous organ has been removed or partially removed, and the patient is still receiving ongoing treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation.

Cancer is considered historical when:

- The cancer was successfully treated, and the patient isn't receiving treatment.
- The cancer was excised or eradicated, and there's no evidence of recurrence and further treatment isn't needed.
- The patient had cancer and is coming back for surveillance of recurrence.
- The patient is currently on adjuvant therapy (like Lupron or Tamoxifen) for prophylactic purposes.

For the latest coding information, view the [ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting](#).

Preventive Care Guide Updates

The preventive care guide has been updated with an additional code in the Colorectal Cancer Screening section. The changes go into effect August 1, 2025.

[Preventive Guide Updates](#)

Holiday Closure

We will be closed on Thursday, June 19, 2025, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. We will reopen for normal business hours on June 20.

July 1 Adaptive Maintenance

In a few weeks, we will implement the new and revised Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for July 1, 2025. Be on the lookout for more details soon!

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, 445 Industrial Lane, Berlin, Vermont 05602, USA

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