

	<b>SECTION #:</b>		<b>DOCUMENT #: UM151</b>
	ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE	CURRENT EFFECT DATE	<b>Department Guideline</b>
	11/2024	11/2024	
	<b>AFFECTED DEPARTMENT:</b> Clinical Pharmacy Services/ Utilization Management		<b>ENTITY(S):</b>  SRS
	<b>TITLE:</b>  Medication Selection		

**I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines for the selection of medications, ensuring the patients receive the most effective and cost-efficient treatments.

**II. PROCEDURE:**

- A. Step Therapy: "Step therapy" is a process specifying the sequence in which different prescription drugs for a given medical condition and medically appropriate for a particular patient are prescribed.
  - 1. The health plan may require the enrollee to try one or more drugs to treat the enrollee's medical condition before the health plan will cover a particular drug for the condition pursuant to a step therapy request.
  - 2. If the enrollee's prescribing provider submits a request for step therapy exception, SRS medical group shall make exceptions to step therapy when the criteria is met.
- B. SRS Medical Group has the ability to recommend and interchange therapeutic agents
  - 1. Selection is based on the SRS Formulary and preferred agents, when SRS is delegated for the financial risk.
  - 2. If the drug requested is not included in SRS Formulary it may not be approved, unless the formulary agent compromises patient care in some way.
- C. Previously approved drugs may be approved when:
  - 1. The provider continues to prescribe the drug for the same medical condition and the drug is still FDA approved for safe and effective use; and
  - 2. The member has previously been taking the prescribed medication (even if with a prior carrier) with no recent break.

**III. CROSS REFERENCES**

DG 118 Disclosure of Criteria

**IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

**V. APPROVALS:**

- a. SRS PBA, Kim Allen RPh – 11/26/2024
- b. Managed Care Business – 11/26/2024