

STAYING HEALTHY. THAT'S THE PLAN.



MARCH 2018
HIV PCP NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL NEEDS PLAN (SNP)

MEDICATION FORMULARY UPDATE



Mavyret (glecaprevir and pibrentasvir), is now the preferred formulary agent for treatment of all 6 genotypes in chronic hepatitis C infection. It should not be used with Evox or Reyataz (atazanavir) because of a drug interaction. Screening and suppression of hepatitis B, if present, is necessary before starting treatment.

Biktarvy (bictegravir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide), **Juluca** (dolutegravir and rilpivirine) and **Trogarzo** (ibalizumab) are under review for addition to our formularies. In the meantime, you may contact **Dr. Ross Hewitt**, HIV Medical Director at MetroPlus, for assistance with individual requests.



Generic **ritonavir** is now available and preferred to brand name **Norvir**. Please anticipate this change with your protease-boosted patients. Continued use of Norvir will require prior authorization.

90-day prescriptions are now available for anti-hypertensives, lipid lowering agents, anti-depressants and bronchodilators. We encourage you to prescribe 90-day supplies of these generic, relatively inexpensive medications. 90-day supplies improve medication adherence and help to support our quality goals to lower blood pressure and cholesterol, while reducing hospital and emergency room usage for depression and asthma.

PREP MONITORING PROGRAM



The use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (**Truvada** [emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate]) is an important public health tool in the fight to prevent HIV infection. Truvada is on the MetroPlus formulary and does not require pre-authorization. MetroPlus monitors the use of follow up HIV testing for members prescribed Truvada, since it is the standard of care in PrEP programs. People taking Truvada should be monitored regularly for HIV infection, sexual transmitted infections and renal function testing. Lack of proper monitoring may result in a disapproval decision.

2017 VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION

According to our internal data, estimated viral load suppression across our entire population (all insurance MetroPlus products) rose from 81% to 84% from the end of 2016 to the end of 2017. That is evidence of the excellent care you provide. The Health & Wellness team from MetroPlus Partnership In Care is also working to improve viral load suppression and support our members in their journey to the best health possible. Please reach out to us if you have a MetroPlus patient that could benefit from our care coordination assistance.

TRANSGENDER INCLUSION IN PARTNERSHIP IN CARE



Enrollment eligibility for Partnership in Care, originally designed as a Special Needs Plan for people with HIV, was expanded by New York State to include HIV-negative individuals who identify as transgender as of November 2017. MetroPlus has been hard at work adapting our systems and training our staff on issues involving this special population. Our Health & Wellness team will provide care coordination, health education and support to transgender persons who enroll, giving them an advocate as they journey in their transition. We believe every MetroPlus member should be addressed by their preferred name. We welcome them.

FOLLOW-UP AFTER HOSPITALIZATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

A very important goal of our quality program is to improve the follow-up of members seen in the emergency room for alcohol or other dependence, as well as members seen in the emergency room or hospitalized for mental illness. The medical literature supports the notion that people seen in follow-up within 7 days of ER visits or hospitalization have overall improved behavioral health outcomes. Please help us help our members make and keep these appointments. We can assist with that process as well as provide appointment reminders. Continuity of care is crucial for those with behavioral health concerns.

CERTIFICATION AS AN HIV SPECIALIST

The American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM) offers three types of certification: HIV Specialist™, HIV Pharmacist™ and HIV Expert™. The AAHIVM credentialing application period is now open until **July 31** for the testing window of August 14 – September 24. MetroPlus accepts AAHIVM certification as proof of your expertise to qualify you as an HIV Specialist PCP in our network. There is an open-book certification exam that can be taken online at your convenience. A minimum of 45 credits or activity hours of HIV and/or HCV-related continuing education within the 36 months preceding the date of application is required. If your Renewal Date is 12/31/18, you need to renew this year to maintain your credential. There is an examination fee. To learn more about the program, eligibility and exam dates for the coming year, check out www.aahivm.org/credentialing.