

# Multiple low cost options for the management of allergies



## Antihistamines

	Generic	Formulary <sup>1</sup>	Typical copay <sup>2</sup>	Cost per month <sup>3</sup>
<b>Claritin®/Zyrtec® OTC</b>	✓	✓	<b>\$7</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Claritin-D®/ Zyrtec-D® OTC</b>	✓	✓	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$30</b>
Allegra®	✓	✓	\$10	\$45
Allegra-D®		✓	\$40	\$115
Xyzal®			\$60	\$80
Clarinetex®, D®			\$60	\$115

## Intranasal Steroids

<b>Flonase®</b>	✓	✓	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Nasalide®/Nasarel™</b>	✓	✓	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$30</b>
Nasacort® AQ		✓	\$40	\$80
Nasonex®			\$60	\$80
Omnaris™			\$60	\$80
Veramyst™			\$60	\$80
Rhinocort Aqua®			\$60	\$85
Beconase AQ®			\$60	\$130

## Other

Astelin®		✓	\$40	\$80
Patanase®			\$60	\$80
Singulair® <sup>4</sup>		✓	\$40	\$115

<sup>1</sup>Nonformulary agents may not be covered, depending on member's drug rider. Coverage may not apply to Medicare Part D plans. OTC products may not be a covered benefit for all BCBSM plans.

<sup>2</sup>Based on the most common three-tier plan design

<sup>3</sup>Based on discounted AWP and MAC for a 34-day supply

<sup>4</sup>Singulair is subject to step therapy for allergic rhinitis

<sup>5</sup>Asthma Immunol. 1998;81:478-518.

<sup>6</sup>Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2002;88:592-600.

## Antihistamines

- Claritin and Zyrtec OTC products are covered at the lowest copayment.
- Prescription required for coverage.
- Step therapy with Claritin or Zyrtec OTC may be required for new starts.

## Intranasal Steroids

- Most frequently prescribed intranasal steroid (Flonase) now available in generic version.
- Proven superiority to nonsedating antihistamines in management of allergic rhinitis symptoms<sup>5</sup>.
- Established safety and tolerability long-term.
- Step therapy with generic Nasarel/Nasalide or Flonase may be required for new starts.

## Other

- Intranasal steroids and nonsedating antihistamines are the first-line treatment for allergic rhinitis.
- Loratadine has been demonstrated as superior to Singulair and equivalent to the combination.<sup>6</sup>
- Loratadine is more cost-effective than Singulair (\$7 vs \$115/month).