

Special Bulletin

December 2010

Pharmacy Policy for Coverage of Non-Preferred Viscosupplements, Effective April 1, 2011

Today, agents within a therapeutic drug class can vary widely in cost, even if they are clinically equivalent and interchangeable. Commercially available products within the viscosupplement therapeutic drug class are considered by most physicians to be clinically equivalent and interchangeable.

Following a comprehensive review of all nationally published information on viscosupplements commercially available and after gathering feedback from impacted specialists, it has been determined that these products have similar efficacy despite wide variances in cost. As announced previously, to help ensure the affordability and sustainability of the medical benefit, **Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield has established Supartz and Synvisc as the preferred viscosupplements available through the Mountain State Medical Injectable Drug Program.**

The Mountain State Medical Injectable Drug Program is the program through which Mountain State providers order certain injectable drugs for office administration for their SuperBlue® Plus, SuperBlue Select, and Highmark Health Insurance Company (HHIC) FreedomBlueSM PPO patients.

Pharmacy Policies Define Criteria for Coverage of Non-Preferred Agents
Mountain State recognizes there may be instances in which the use of a viscosupplement other than Supartz or Synvisc might be indicated. To address these scenarios, Mountain State Pharmacy Policy J-501 defines the criteria under which coverage for non-preferred viscosupplements will be considered.

You can review this and other pharmacy policies, which contain the applicable procedure codes, approval criteria and additional coverage criteria, on the Pharmacy Policies page on www.msbcbs.com. Under the Provider tab, select *Pharmacy Policy*.

Order Drugs Through Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy®

Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy is Mountain State's exclusive specialty pharmacy vendor for specialty drugs included in the Mountain State Medical Injectable Drug Program/Mountain State Mandatory Drug List. This program is required and applicable to Mountain State lines of business to include Traditional/Indemnity, PPO/POS and BlueCard with the exception of FEP Service Benefit plan. For FEP Service Benefit Plan, Walgreens can be used for administrative convenience and is voluntary. The Mountain State Medical Injectable Drug Program is also mandatory for HHIC FreedomBlue PPO (Medicare Advantage).

To place your orders for Supartz, Synvisc and other injectable drugs for your patients enrolled in one of the above-referenced products quickly and easily by telephone, simply call Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, toll-free, at 1-888-347-3416. Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy offers your patients disease education and support, express delivery and has registered nurses and clinical pharmacists available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer your patients' questions.

If you have specific questions about the Pharmacy Policy for coverage of non-preferred viscosupplements, please contact Provider Service at 1-304-424-7795 or 1-800-798-7768, or you may contact your assigned Provider Relations representative.

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