Pharmacy Management

Aetna Co-Pay and Medical Exception for Statin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Adults (Affordable Care Act - Preventive Care Services)

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this policy is to define covered products and to create a pathway for approval of a copay exception in situations where a statin not normally covered at zero dollar copay is determined to be medically necessary.

BACKGROUND:
The United States Preventive Service Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that adults without a history of cardiovascular disease (CVD) (i.e., symptomatic coronary artery disease or ischemic stroke) use a low- to moderate-dose statin for the prevention of CVD events and mortality when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1) They are aged 40 to 75 years; AND
2) They have 1 or more CVD risk factors (ie, dyslipidemia, diabetes, hypertension, or smoking); AND
3) They have a calculated 10-year risk of a cardiovascular event of 10% or greater

Aetna will cover Atorvastatin 10mg, Atorvastatin 20mg, Simvastatin 5mg, Simvastatin 10mg, Simvastatin 20mg and Simvastatin 40mg for members between 40-75 years of age at a zero dollar copay with no restriction besides current quantity limits.

MEDICAL EXCEPTION COVERAGE POLICY:
Aetna will cover other generic or brand statins, which are currently available in the market at a zero dollar copay, if the provider or member answers yes to ALL of the following questions:

1. Is the statin being used for primary prevention?  
2. Is the member 40-75 years of age? AND  
3. Does the member have at least 1 CVD risk? AND  
   a. Dyslipidemia  
   b. Diabetes  
   c. Hypertension  
   d. Smoking  
4. Does the member have a calculated 10 year risk of a cardiovascular event of 10% or greater? AND  
5. Does the member have a documented contraindication, allergy, or intolerance, to atorvastatin AND simvastatin OR documented failure of an adequate trial of one month of both simvastatin 5mg – 40mg AND atorvastatin 20mg?

AUTHORIZATION PERIOD AND LIMITATIONS
Initial Approval: 1 year  
Extended Approval: 1 year

Issued 11/2017  
Updated: 12/2018  
Annual Review: 12/2018
WHY ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THE $0 COVERAGE REQUIREMENT REQUIRED?
The ACA requires that health plans provide coverage of statins with no cost sharing requirements to
the member. The purpose of this policy is to allow statins to be covered at a zero dollar copay when
members meet the medical criteria.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN OBTAINING A MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW OR COPAY EXCEPTION?
To a request copay exception, the prescribing doctor must contact Aetna Precertification to
request approval of the drug to be covered without a member cost share. The request will be
reviewed within 72 hours.

HOW IS NOTIFICATION OF THE MEDICAL NECESSITY OR COPAY EXCEPTION DETERMINATION
COMPLETED?
• If the request is approved, the physician will be notified. The requested drug will then be
covered with no member cost share. Notification to members will also be provided when
required by the state.
• If the request is denied, both the member and the physician will be notified. In the
notification, Appeal rights and processes will be outlined and provided.

REFERENCES:
22617094.
Cardiovascular Risk in Adults.