



Promoting clinically appropriate, cost-effective medications.

What is generic first step therapy?

Step therapy is a clinical tool that helps promote the use of safe, effective, and clinically appropriate medications.

Generic first step therapy requires you to try a generic medication that is safe and equally effective before a brand medication is covered by your benefit.

How does step therapy work?

Step therapy requires you to try an alternative drug before “stepping up” to a brand or higher-cost medication.

Your pharmacist will run your prescription through the system. If the generic drug was not previously dispensed, you must try the generic first or go through the prior authorization (PA) process. If you are currently taking the medication and have a history of taking it for 4-6 months, it will be covered. However, depending on the medication, the length of time required for coverage may vary.

Your plan may require a review called a prior authorization (PA) before your medicine or healthcare service is covered by your plan. If a PA is required, your doctor will submit a form stating why you should receive the brand or higher-cost drug without going through the step therapy process.

Both step therapy and PA help promote the use of safe and effective medications while balancing access and savings for you and your employer.

Not all medications are included in the step therapy program. For specific information on your prescription benefit, please visit the member website at [medimpact.com](https://www.medimpact.com) or ask your employee benefits administrator.

For more information, contact us at **(800) 788-2949** or [medimpact.com](https://www.medimpact.com).