

Step Therapy – Senate Bill 2081/House Bill 1956 How Proposed Legislation Creates Risks for Our Members

Step therapy is a managed care technique used to help control costs and reduce risks associated with certain prescription drugs.

The goal of step therapy programs is to promote clinically appropriate and cost-effective treatment decisions by requiring a trial of one drug before another is used and covered by a patient's insurance plan. This helps **reduce both patient risk and waste within the healthcare system.**

STEP THERAPY AT BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF TENNESSEE

Our step therapy strategy centers around biosimilars, which are similar to generic versions of high-cost specialty drugs, and other lower-cost products.

We have implemented requirements within our medical policies, including step therapy protocols, that align with clinical best practices and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines to help ensure a high standard of patient care.

Here's an example of how our step therapy program saves members money:



BIOSIMILAR: TRUXIMA
SPECIALTY DRUG: RITUXAN*



Member savings when
Truxima is used over Rituxan:
\$1,066 per claim

**Step therapy protocols require a trial of Truxima before Rituxan is approved.*

WHY THIS LEGISLATION IS CONCERNING

The current bill proposed by Tennessee Oncology poses several risks:

- The bill's language is broader than step therapy, and could lead to other areas where accepted clinical standards are bypassed.
- The bill seems to target biosimilars in an effort to increase the use of brand-name specialty drugs and protect revenue.
- If the bill passes as written, providers could use third- or fourth-line cancer treatments in place of a first- or second-line treatment, which could pose health risks for patients.