

# VA Community Care Network (CCN) – Access to Medications

## Prescription Medication:

- Confirm the Veteran has a CCN referral from VA.
- Veterans can receive short-term prescription medication for a 14-day or fewer supply that can be filled at an in-network community pharmacy. A prescription for more than a 14-day supply must be filled by VA.
- To find a VA in-network community pharmacy, go to <https://www.VA.gov/find-locations> and search for “Community pharmacies (in VA’s network).” In addition, authorization for an Rx at an in-network pharmacy is ONLY if the provider determines the script is IMMEDIATELY NEEDED, not just routine. For prescriptions of more than a 14-day supply, or if the prescribed medication is not immediately needed, then the community provider must send the prescription to the local VAMC pharmacy for fulfillment.

## Prescription filled at VA can be submitted:

- Via e-prescribing (preferred), fax or written Rx given to the VA beneficiary.
- Providers must review the VA National Formulary at <https://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/NationalFormulary.asp> and the Criteria For Use (CFU) or Prior-Authorization (PA) if listed for the product. Note: ALL drugs are available in VA regardless of formulary status listed, however additional documentation may be required.
- For products with a CFU or PA, provider must review and complete when submitting the Rx to the VA facility.
- Non-Formulary products require documentation with rationale for the requested drug. This can include: Contraindication to the formulary drug(s), adverse reaction to the formulary drug(s), documented therapeutic failure to the formulary drug(s), no formulary alternative, patient previously responded to the requested non-formulary product and serious risk associated with change, or other circumstances with compelling clinical evidence-based reasons.

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# Example of Prescribing Medication for VA CCN Beneficiary

## VA CCN Provider would like to request Drug X for Veteran patient through e-prescription. Provider should:

1. Refer to the VA National Formulary website (<https://www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/NationalFormulary.asp>) to see if Drug X is listed as non-formulary or requiring a PA/CFU.
2. Provider sees that Drug X is listed as non-formulary medication and reviews the Criteria for Use (CFU) document for Drug X. If no CFU document is available, still proceed to step 3.
3. Provider includes supporting documentation listing the patient's inclusion criteria and confirms patient meets no exclusion criteria (if CFU listing inclusion/exclusion criteria available) when submitting the prescription request to the patient's nearest VA medical center. If no CFU available provider should submit documentation of indication, other medication(s) trialed, pertinent comorbid conditions, and any additional rationale for use over alternative formulary medications.
4. Note: if the patient does not have specified inclusion criteria or exclusion criteria are present, the provider should document the compelling rationale for use of Drug X.

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**For further questions, please call the VA Community Care National Contact Center or visit [www.VA.gov/communitycare](http://www.VA.gov/communitycare)**

**Veteran or Community Provider  
Inquiries 1-877-881-7618  
(Providers Press Option #2)**

