

What is a formulary?

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois prescription drug formulary is a list of preferred drugs selected by a panel of physicians and pharmacists. The formulary includes all generic drugs and a select group of brand name drugs. All drugs are evaluated on their comparative efficacy, safety, uniqueness and cost effectiveness. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois revises its formulary on a regular basis to reflect the availability of new prescription drugs and other changes in the pharmacy market.

Can I use non-formulary drugs?

Yes. Blue Cross uses an *open* prescription drug formulary, which means you have benefit coverage for most drugs, even if they are not on the formulary. You will, however, pay the highest copayment or coinsurance level for non-formulary drugs.

Can a mail service pharmacy receive faxed prescriptions?

Yes, if a change is made to an existing prescription and you need a refill immediately, you can provide your doctor with a Physician's Fax Form so that he/she can send your prescription directly to the mail service pharmacy for you. Please note that the mail service pharmacy will only accept a fax prescription that is sent directly from your doctor's office. **Prescriptions faxed for controlled substances will not be processed. You must mail the original prescription signed by your doctor to the mail service pharmacy.**

How much will I pay at the pharmacy?

If your benefit plan is based on a three-tier design, your copayment or coinsurance share will be lowest for generic medications, the same or slightly higher for brand name drugs that are on the formulary, and highest for brand name drugs that are not on the formulary.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

As always, you should discuss questions and concerns about drugs that you are taking with your physician. He or she can discuss whether a Blue Cross formulary medication is appropriate for you. If you have any questions about your prescription drug benefits, call our Prescription Drug Inquiry Unit (800) 423-1973.