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Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.
CONTRACT MANAGER NAME
Provider Communications, RCB-C2W-02
PO Box 34262, Seattle WA 98124-1262

DECEMBER 23, 2022

MEDICARE PART B: RITUXIMAB-ABBS (TRUXIMA) REQUIRING STEP THERAPY

Dear Provider,

Effective March 1, 2023, step therapy will be required for rituximab-abbs (Truxima), where patients must demonstrate trial and failure, intolerance, or contraindication to the preferred drug, rituximab-arxx (Riabni), before the nonpreferred drug, rituximab-abbs (Truxima), is covered. This letter is a notification of the upcoming change in step therapy approval required before administering this medication under the medical benefit.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington (Kaiser Permanente) requires step therapy or prior authorization for a select group of injectable drugs that may be administered under the medical benefit. These reviews are intended to ensure consistent benefit adjudication as well as appropriate utilization in accordance with the Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee’s evidence-based criteria for coverage.

The step therapy requirement does not apply to patients who have received treatment with the non-preferred drug within the past 365 days.

Non-preferred drug		Preferred alternative	
Q5115	rituximab-abbs (Truxima)	Q5123	rituximab-arxx (Riabni)

Additional Information

A complete list of office-administered Part B injectable drugs requiring step therapy can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/provider-manual/clinical-review/officeinject>.

To request step therapy review, please use the Referral Request online form located on the Kaiser Permanente provider website <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/provider-manual/clinical-review/preservice>. You can also fax your request to the Review Services department toll-free at 1-888-282-2685.

Thank you for the care you provide to our members, your patients. If you have any questions about this process, please call Review Services at 1-800-289-1363, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sincerely,

Peter Barkett, MD, Chair
Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee