

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington
 Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.
 Provider Communications, RCR-A3W-04
 PO Box 34262, Seattle WA 98124-1262

AUGUST 28, 2024

MEDICARE PART B DRUG REQUIRING STEP THERAPY: FILGRASTIM (NEUPOGEN)

Dear Provider,

Effective December 1, 2024, step therapy requirements will be updated for the non-preferred Medicare Part B drug, filgrastim (Neupogen). **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 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 following injectable drug will require step therapy, where a patient must demonstrate trial and failure, intolerance, or contraindication to the preferred drugs before the non-preferred drug is covered. **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	
J1442	filgrastim (Neupogen)*	Q5101	filgrastim-sndz (Zarxio)
		Q5110	filgrastim-aafi (Nivestym)
		J1447	tbo-filgrastim (Granix)

Additional Information

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

To request prior authorization review, please use the Referral Request online form (login required) located on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at <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,



Ravi Ubriani, MD, Chair
 Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee