

## INJECTABLE MEDICATION COVERAGE

### Policy

VCHCP covers injectable medications when an appropriate oral alternative drug does not exist.

This coverage includes those medications intended to be self administered.

The medication must be medically necessary and appropriate to the member's needs or condition.

Experimental or investigational drugs or drugs that have not been proven safe and effective for a specific disease or approved for a mode of treatment by the FDA and/or the NIH are not covered. This provision does not exclude coverage of the "off label" use of otherwise FDA approved prescribed medications.

Drugs related to the treatment of non-covered services are not covered. Infertility injectables are covered only when required by regulation or covered by a specific benefit design. Steroids are not covered for athletic performance enhancement.

Certain classes of injectable medications are not covered:

1. Anabolic Steroids When Used for Athletic Performance Enhancement
2. Infertility Injectables, unless otherwise approved

Notes: All injectables with the exception of Insulins, epinephrine, headache medications, medroxyprogesterone acetate and approved immunization products require prior authorization. Additionally, appropriate copay apply as defined by Plan's Pharmacy Benefit Structure.

### Procedure:

A treatment authorization request (TAR) must be submitted to UR for approval by the UR physician or Medical Director.

**A. Attachments:** None

**B. History:**

Reviewers: Richard O. Ashby MD, QA Committee; Date: July 2001  
Reviewed /Revised: C. Wilhelmy MD & L. Catapang RN; Date: Aug 2005  
Committee Review: UM: August 8, 2005; QAC: August 23, 2005  
Reviewed/Revised: Albert Reeves MD; Date: 11/1/11

Committee Review: UM Committee on 11/10/11 & QA on 11/22/11  
 Reviewed/No Changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 4/17/12  
 Committee Reviews: UM: May 10, 2012; QAC: May 22, 2012  
 Reviewed/No Changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: 1/28/13  
 Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2013; QAC: February 26, 2013  
 Reviewed/No Changes: Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2014; QAC: February 25, 2014  
 Reviewed/Updated: Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: May 8, 2014; QAC: May 27, 2014  
 Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 12, 2015; QAC: February 24, 2015  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 11, 2016; QAC: February 23, 2016  
 Reviewed/Updated by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 9, 2017; QAC: February 28, 2017  
 Reviewed/Updated by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 8, 2018; QAC: February 27, 2018  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2019; QAC: February 26, 2019  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD  
 Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2020; QAC: February 25, 2020

<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Content Revised (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Review/Revision Notes</b>
2/9/17	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review; updated to reflect addition of epinephrine, headache medications, medroxyprogesterone acetate and removal of Imitrex – as exceptions to injectables requiring prior authorization
2/8/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review



**Medical Policy: Injectable Medication Coverage**

Effective July 17, 2001  
 Reviewed/Revised: August 2005  
 Reviewed/Revised: Nov 1, 2011; April 17, 2012  
 Reviewed/No Updates: 1/28/13, 2/13/14; 2/12/15;  
 2/11/16; 2/9/17; 2/8/18; 2/14/19; 2/13/20  
 Reviewed/Updated: 05/27/14

2/14/19	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/13/20	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review

**C. References:**

1. *U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. USP Dispensing Information. Volume I - Drug Information for the Health Care Professional, 19th Ed. Englewood, CO: Micromedex, 1999.*
2. *Medical Economics, Inc. Physicians' Desk Reference, 54th Ed. Montvale, NJ: Medical Economics Data Production, 2000.*
3. *Mosby-Year Book, Inc. Mosby's GenRx: The Complete Reference for Generic and Brand Drugs, 10th Ed. St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 2000.*
4. *American Hospital Formulary Service. AHFS Drug Information 2000. Bethesda, MD: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, 2000.*