

TELUS Health diabetes step therapy program

Information for pharmacy providers

Program structure

TELUS Health launched the diabetes step therapy program on October 5, 2017. The following update to rules was implemented in October 17, 2022.

Step	Therapeutic class (before update)	Therapeutic class (after update)
Step 1	Biguanides (immediate release – Metformin)	Biguanides (immediate release – Metformin)
Step 2	Biguanides (extended release – Metformin ER) Sulfonylureas (e.g. Glyburide) SGLT-2 inhibitors (Empagliflozin and Empagliflozin + Metformin) GLP-1 Agonists (Liraglutide)	Biguanides (extended release – Metformin ER) Sulfonylureas (e.g. Glyburide) α glucosidases inhibitors (e.g. Acarbose) SGLT-2 inhibitors & metformin combos (Empagliflozin +/- Metformin and Canagliflozin +/- Metformin) DPP-4 inhibitors (e.g. Sitagliptin) & metformin combos Meglitinides (e.g. Repaglinide) Thiazolidinediones (e.g. Pioglitazone)
Step 3*	Meglitinides (e.g. Repaglinide) Thiazolidinedione (e.g. Pioglitazone) GLP-1 Agonists (e.g. Semaglutide) SGLT-2 inhibitors (e.g. Dapagliflozin) DPP-4 inhibitors (e.g. Sitagliptin) Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors (e.g. Acarbose) GLP-1 agonist & insulin combo (e.g. Insulin glargine/lixisenatide)	GLP-1 agonist & insulin combo (e.g. Semaglutide and Insulin glargine/lixisenatide)

*Any products that don't meet criteria for step 1 or 2 are added to step 3 automatically.

How does the program work at the pharmacy?

1. Plan member presents prescription for processing at the pharmacy.
2. TELUS Health adjudication engine verifies whether or not a step therapy program applies to the particular claim.
3. If a prior step has not been fulfilled, you might see one of the following return messages:
 - a. 'Preference or Step Drug Available'
 - b. 'Prerequisite DIN required first'

Please note: the information in this document pertains to the diabetes step therapy program maintained by TELUS Health only. For information regarding any other step therapy programs, plan members will need to contact their insurance carriers.

Program details

- The program consists of 3 steps which were established based on evidence of clinical safety, efficacy and cost
 - The program includes oral and non-insulin injectable diabetic medications
 - The program can be customized to require that single or multiple requirements are met before progressing to drugs or devices in the next step of the program
 - o i.e. trial of 2 or more drugs in a therapy class before progressing to the next step
- Guidelines published by Diabetes Canada and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) were used during the build of each step within the program