

September 20, 2012

Dear Member:

FirstCarolinaCare Insurance Company (FCC) is committed to providing you with a quality health plan at an affordable cost. One of the ways we accomplish this is through the review of prescription drug costs and usage. As a result, FCC has identified the “statin” class of cholesterol lowering medications as a cost-savings opportunity for our members. This class of medications includes atorvastatin (generic Lipitor[®]), fluvastatin (generic Lescol[®]), lovastatin (generic Mevacor[®]), pravastatin (generic Pravachol[®]), simvastatin (generic Zocor[®]), Crestor[®], Lescol XL[®] and Livalo[®].

Effective **October 1, 2012**, FCC will apply a **step therapy** requirement to all strengths of **Livalo[®] and Lescol XL[®] and to Crestor[®] 5mg, 10mg and 20mg tablets**. A step therapy requirement will not be added to Crestor[®] 40mg since the available generics are not equivalent to this strength. Step therapy means that certain medications must be tried in a set order for FCC to cover them. **This change will affect only members new to statin medications and not members currently on statin medications.**

How does the Step Therapy work?

If you are newly prescribed Crestor[®], Lescol XL[®] or Livalo[®], you will first need to try one of the generic statins: atorvastatin (generic Lipitor[®]), fluvastatin (generic Lescol[®]), lovastatin (generic Mevacor[®]), pravastatin (generic Pravachol[®]), or simvastatin (generic Zocor[®]). If you do not get the desired results with one of the generic statins, then you can “**Step Up**” to Crestor[®], Lescol XL[®] or Livalo[®].

This change will save you money by trying a generic statin cholesterol lowering medication first. All of these medications are similar in safety and effectiveness when taken at equivalent doses. The member copayment comparison is as follows:

atorvastatin	\$8 copayment (generic)
fluvastatin	
lovastatin	
pravastatin	
simvastatin	
Crestor[®]	\$55 copayment (non-preferred brand)
Lescol XL[®]	
Livalo[®]	

Although step therapy does not apply to members currently taking Crestor[®], Lescol XL[®], or Livalo[®], those members still have an **opportunity to save money** by trying a generic statin for an \$8 copayment. If you are taking Crestor[®], Lescol XL[®], or Livalo[®], discuss with your provider if one of the generic statins may be an option for you.

We hope this information will be helpful and recommend you take this letter with you when you visit your provider. It is important to remember that you may have a delay in getting your medication if the changes above are not followed for members new to “statin” cholesterol lowering therapy. If you have any questions, please contact FCC at (800) 574-8556.

Sincerely,



Elise McInnis, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist

42 Memorial Drive • Suite 1 • Pinehurst, N.C. 28374 • Phone (910) 715-8100 • Fax (910) 715-8101

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