

**Antidepressants**  
**Effective 12/04/2023**

<b>Plan</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MassHealth UPPL <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Exchange	<b>Program Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prior Authorization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quantity Limit <input type="checkbox"/> Step Therapy
<b>Benefit</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Benefit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Benefit (NLX)		
<b>Specialty Limitations</b>	N/A		
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Specialty Medications</b>		
	All Plans	Phone: 866-814-5506	Fax: 866-249-6155
	<b>Non-Specialty Medications</b>		
	MassHealth	Phone: 877-433-7643	Fax: 866-255-7569
	Commercial	Phone: 800-294-5979	Fax: 888-836-0730
	Exchange	Phone: 855-582-2022	Fax: 855-245-2134
	<b>Medical Specialty Medications (NLX)</b>		
	All Plans	Phone: 844-345-2803	Fax: 844-851-0882
<b>Exceptions</b>	Zulresso is available through medical benefit only. Spravato is available through both pharmacy and medical benefits.		

**Overview**

No PA	Require PA
<b>Combination agents</b>	
	amitriptyline/chlordiazepoxide ††
	amitriptyline/perphenazine †‡
	Symbyax® (olanzapine/fluoxetine) *
<b>Norepinephrine-dopamine reuptake inhibitors (NDRIs)</b>	
	Aplenzin® (bupropion hydrobromide extended-release) > 1 unit/day
bupropion hydrochloride	Forfivo XL® (bupropion hydrochloride extended-release 450 mg tablet) <sup>†BP</sup>
Wellbutrin® SR # (bupropion hydrochloride sustained-release)	
	Wellbutrin® XL # (bupropion hydrochloride extended-release 150 mg, 300 mg tablet) * > 1 unit/day
<b>Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)</b>	
Nardil® # (phenelzine)	Emsam® (selegiline transdermal patch)
tranylcypromine	Marplan® (isocarboxazid)
<b>Noradrenergic and specific serotonergic antidepressant (NaSSA)</b>	
Remeron® # (mirtazapine)	Remeron® Sol Tab (mirtazapine orally disintegrating tablet) *
<b>Serotonin modulators</b>	

nefazodone	trazodone 300 mg tablet
trazodone 50 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg	Trintellix® (vortioxetine)
	Viibryd® (vilazodone)*
<b>Serotonin/norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)</b>	
Cymbalta® # (duloxetine 20 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg)	duloxetine 40 mg
	Drizalma® (duloxetine sprinkle capsule)
Effexor® XR # (venlafaxine extended-release capsule)	desvenlafaxine extended-release ‡
	Fetzima® (levomilnacipran)
	Pristiq® # (desvenlafaxine succinate extended release)* <sup>BP</sup>
venlafaxine	venlafaxine besylate extended-release tablet
	venlafaxine hydrochloride extended-release tablet
<b>Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)</b>	
Celexa® # (citalopram solution, tablet)	citalopram capsule
fluoxetine 10 mg, 20 mg tablet for premenstrual dysphoric disorder	fluoxetine 60 mg tablet †
	fluoxetine 90 mg delayed-release capsule
fluvoxamine immediate-release	fluvoxamine extended-release
Lexapro® # (escitalopram)	
Paxil® # (paroxetine hydrochloride)	Paxil® CR (paroxetine controlled-release) *
Prozac® # (fluoxetine 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg capsule, solution)	Pexeva® (paroxetine mesylate)
Zoloft® # (sertraline oral concentrate, tablet)	sertraline capsule
<b>Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)</b>	
amitriptyline tablet	Anafranil® (clomipramine) *
amoxapine	imipramine pamoate
doxepin capsule, oral concentrate	
imipramine hydrochloride	Norpramin® (desipramine) *
Pamelor® # (nortriptyline)	protriptyline
	trimipramine
<b>N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonists</b>	
	Auvelity® (dextromethorphan/bupropion) Spravato® (esketamine)
<b>Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-A receptor positive modulator</b>	
	Zulresso® (brexanolone) <sup>MB</sup>

# This is a brand-name drug with FDA "A"-rated generic equivalents. PA is required for the brand, unless a particular form of that drug (for example, tablet, capsule, or liquid) does not have an FDA "A"-rated generic equivalent.

MB This agent is available through the health care professional who administers the drug.

\* A-rated generic available. Both brand and A-rated generic require PA.

BP Brand Preferred over generic equivalents. In general, requires a trial of the preferred drug or clinical rationale for prescribing the non-preferred drug generic equivalent.

† Fluoxetine 60 mg tablet is a branded agent without a proprietary name.

‡ Desvenlafaxine extended-release products are non AB-rated formulations to Pristiq® (desvenlafaxine succinate extended-release).

§ Use of antidepressants in members less than 18 years of age is discussed in the Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative guideline.

¶ Authorized generic. Requires PA.

†† Please review using criteria in the Benzodiazepine and other Antianxiety Agents guideline.



‡‡ Please review using criteria in the Antipsychotics guideline.

**Approvable Diagnoses:**

- Anxiety disorder
- Bipolar disorder
- Depressive disorder
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Panic disorder
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Other psychiatric or neurologic condition requiring treatment with an antidepressant (i.e., psychotic disorder, neuropathic pain)

The **Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative** may apply to members <18 years of age due to polypharmacy, age, and/or drug restrictions. As indicated within this guideline, please refer to the **Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative** guideline to assess appropriateness of therapy.

**Coverage Guidelines**

Authorization may be reviewed on a case by case basis for members who are new to the plan currently receiving treatment with requested medication excluding when the product is obtained as samples or via manufacturer's patient assistance programs.

**OR**

Authorization will be granted when all the following criteria has been met:

**Anafranil®** (clomipramine)

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **TWO** or contraindication to **ALL** SSRIs antidepressants

**Forfivo XL®** (bupropion hydrochloride extended-release 450 mg tablet)<sup>BP</sup>

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Member is ≥18 years of age
3. Medical records documenting an inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to bupropion SR or XL

**desvenlafaxine extended-release**

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Member is ≥18 years of age
3. Medical records documenting an inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to desvenlafaxine succinate extended-release (brand or A-rated generic for Pristiq®)

**Drizalma®** (duloxetine sprinkle capsule)

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Clinical rationale for the requested formulation instead of solid oral formulation (e.g., swallowing disorder, dysphagia)



**Emsam®** (selegiline transdermal system)

**ONE** of the following:

1. Diagnosis of major depressive disorder
  - a. Member is >18 years of age
  - b. **ONE** of the following:
    - i. Medical necessity for the use of a transdermal formulation
    - ii. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** SSRI and **ONE** non-SSRI
    - iii. Contraindication to all SSRI antidepressants and non-SSRI antidepressants
  - c. If the request is for a quantity > 1 patch and/or 12 mg daily prescriber must provide documentation of appropriate clinical rationale for dosing higher than the FDA approved limits
2. Diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease (off-label)
  - a. Member is > 18 years of age
  - b. Medical necessity for use of a transdermal formulation
  - c. Requested quantity is ≤ 9 mg/day\*

*Notes:*

- Please see appendix for information regarding requests stating the member is unable to adhere to a tyramine-restricted diet.
- \*Please see appendix for information regarding the use of Emsam® in the treatment of Parkinson's disease

**Norpramin®** (desipramine)

**ONE** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
  - a. Member is ≥18 years of age
  - b. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** or contraindication to **BOTH** of the following
    - i. SSRI
    - ii. SNRI
  - c. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** TCA antidepressant available without prior authorization
2. Diagnosis of **ONE** of the following (off-label): Fibromyalgia, Diabetic neuropathy, Postherpetic neuralgia
  - a. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as ≥ 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** other tricyclic antidepressant or contraindication to **ALL** other tricyclic antidepressants
  - b. Appropriate dosing

**citalopram capsule**

**duloxetine 40 mg**

**fluoxetine 60 mg tablet**

**fluoxetine 90 mg delayed-release capsule**

**flvoxamine extended-release**

**imipramine pamoate**

**sertraline capsule**

**trazodone 300 mg tablet**

**venlafaxine besylate extended release tablet**

**venlafaxine hydrochloride extended-release tablet**

**ALL** of the following:



1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Appropriate dosing
3. Medical records documenting inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to the respective formulation of the agent requested that is available without prior authorization:
  - a. citalopram capsule: citalopram tablets (three 10 mg tablets or one 10 mg and one 20 mg tablet)
  - b. fluoxetine 60 mg tablet: fluoxetine (three 20 mg capsules or tablets)
  - c. fluvoxamine extended-release: immediate-release fluvoxamine
  - d. duloxetine 40 mg: duloxetine (two 20 mg capsules)
  - e. fluoxetine 90 mg (weekly): fluoxetine daily (i.e., compliance issues where weekly administration allows supervised medication administration)
  - f. imipramine pamoate: imipramine hydrochloride
  - g. sertraline capsule: sertraline tablets (one 50 mg and one 100 mg tablet [150 mg capsule] or two 100 mg tablets [200 mg capsule])
  - h. trazodone 300 mg tablet: trazodone immediate-release (two 150 mg tablets)
  - i. venlafaxine besylate extended-release tablet, venlafaxine hydrochloride extended-release tablet: venlafaxine extended-release capsules

**maprotiline**

**Marplan**® (isocarboxazid)

**protriptyline**

**trimipramine**

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Member is ≥18 years of age
3. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** or contraindication to **BOTH** of the following
  - a. SSRI
  - b. SNRI
4. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** TCA antidepressant available without prior authorization

**Paxil**® CR (paroxetine controlled-release)

**Pexeva**® (paroxetine mesylate)

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. Member is ≥18 years of age
3. Medical records documenting an inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to immediate-release paroxetine
4. For Pexeva® (paroxetine mesylate) requests, member must meet the above criteria and prescriber must provide medical records documenting and inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to paroxetine controlled-release formulation

**Remeron**® Sol Tab (mirtazapine orally disintegrating tablet)

**ALL** of the following:

1. **ONE** of the approvable diagnoses (listed above)
2. **ONE** of the following:
  - a. Medical necessity for the ODT formulation



- b. Medical records documenting an inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to mirtazapine tablet

**Spravato®** (esketamine)

**ONE** of the following:

1. Diagnosis of Treatment resistant depression (TRD)
  - a. Member is  $\geq 18$  years of age
  - b. Prescriber is a specialist (i.e., psychiatrist) or consult notes from a specialist are provided
  - c. Medical records documenting an inadequate response (defined as at least four weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** SSRI and **ONE** other non-SSRI antidepressant
  - d. Medical records documenting an inadequate response (defined as at least four weeks of therapy for antidepressants) or adverse reaction with **ONE** or contraindication to **ALL** of the following antidepressant augmentation strategies:
    - i. Second-generation antipsychotic (*Aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine extended-release, and Rexulti® [brexiprazole]*)
    - ii. Lithium
    - iii. A second antidepressant from a different class
    - iv. Thyroid hormone
  - e. Requested agent will be used in combination with an oral antidepressant
  - f. Appropriate dosing
2. Diagnosis of Treatment of depressive symptoms in adults with MDD with acute suicidal ideation or behavior
  - a. Member is  $\geq 18$  years of age
  - b. Prescriber is a specialist (i.e., psychiatrist) or consult notes from a specialist are provided
  - c. **ONE** of the following:
    - i. Medical records documenting current acute suicidal ideation or behavior related to depressive symptoms of MDD
    - ii. Member was stabilized on esketamine during a psychiatric hospitalization
  - d. Requested agent will be used in combination with an oral antidepressant\*
  - e. Appropriate dosing

\* Requests that indicate that Spravato® will be used in combination with quetiapine can be approved if all other criteria are met

**Symbyax®** (fluoxetine/olanzapine)

**ALL** of the following:

1. Diagnosis of ONE of the following:
  - a. Depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder
  - b. Treatment resistant depression
2. Medical necessity for the use of the combination product instead of the commercially available separate agents

**Auvelity®** (dextromethorphan/ bupropion)

**Fetzima®** (levomilnacipran)

**Trintellix®** (vortioxetine)

**Viibryd®** (vilazodone)

**ALL** of the following:

1. Diagnosis of depression
2. Member is  $\geq 18$  years of age



3. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response (defined as at least 4 weeks of therapy) or adverse reaction to **ONE** SSRI and **ONE** other non-SSRI antidepressant or contraindication to **ALL** SSRI and non-SSRI antidepressants
4. **ONE** of the following\*:
  - a. For Trintellix, and vilazodone, requested quantity is  $\leq 1$  unit/day
  - b. For Auvelity, requested quantity is  $\leq 2$  units/day

\* Requests that exceed quantity limits due to a non-commercially available dose (i.e., Trintellix® 15 mg) should generally be approved if the dose requested is within FDA-approved dosing and unable to consolidate quantity further with available strengths.

#### **Zulresso® (brexanolone)<sup>MB</sup>**

**ALL** of the following:

1. Diagnosis of postpartum depression
2. Member is  $\geq 18$  years of age
3. Prescriber is a specialist (e.g., obstetrician-gynecologist or psychiatrist) or consult notes from a specialist are provided
4. Member is  $\leq 6$  months postpartum at screening with onset of a major depressive episode no earlier than the third trimester and no later than 4 weeks after delivery
5. Member is not currently pregnant
6. Appropriate dosing (weight required)

#### **Exceeding Quantity Limit of >1 unit/day**

**Aplenzin®** (bupropion hydrobromide extended-release)

**Fetzima®** (levomilnacipran)

**Pristiq®** (desvenlafaxine succinate extended-release)<sup>BP</sup>

**Wellbutrin® XL** (bupropion hydrochloride extended-release 150 mg, 300 mg tablets)

**ALL** of the following:

1. Appropriate diagnosis
2. **ONE** of the following:
  - a. Clinical rationale why the dose cannot be consolidated
  - b. Clinical rationale why the member requires dosing at intervals exceeding what is recommended by the FDA (for example twice daily when FDA approved dosing is only once daily)

#### **Antidepressant Polypharmacy** (Members $\geq 18$ years of age)

*Overlap of  $\geq 60$  out of 90 day period of  $\geq 2$  SSRIs, SNRIs (excluding Fetzima®), serotonin modulators (excluding trazodone), or  $\geq 60$  out of 90 day overlap in prescriptions for any dosage form of SNRIs (excluding Fetzima®), SSRIs and serotonin modulators (excluding trazodone)*

**ALL** of the following:

1. Individual drug PA criteria must be met first where applicable within established quantity limits for the individual drug
2. Psychiatric diagnosis including severe or treatment-resistant conditions
3. Clear treatment plan including names and doses of current antidepressants and corresponding diagnoses
4. Prescriber is a psychiatrist or consult notes from a psychiatrist are provided
5. **ONE** of the following:
  - a. Cross-titration/taper of antidepressant therapy
  - b. Paid claims or physician attestation of inadequate response or adverse reaction to **TWO** monotherapy trials as clinically appropriate



- c. Member had recent psychiatric hospitalization and was discharged on the current regimen

**Continuation of Therapy**

Reauthorization by physician will infer a positive response to therapy.

**Limitations**

1. Initial approvals will be granted for the following:
  - a. Zupresso: 1 month
  - b. Spravato: 3 months (treatment resistant depression), 1 month (depressive symptoms in adults with MDD with acute suicidal ideation or behavior)
  - c. All other requests: up to 12 months
2. Reauthorizations will be granted for 12 months
  - a. Requests for recertification of Spravato® (esketamine) beyond 1 month of treatment for the indication of depressive symptoms in adults with MDD with acute suicidal ideation or behavior should meet criteria for TRD
  - b. Reauthorizations of Zupresso will not be granted as retreatment has not been established.
3. **Requests for Brand Name when generic is preferred:** In addition to any prior authorization requirements that may be listed above, if an A-rated generic equivalent is available, such prior authorization requests require medical records documenting an allergic response, adverse reaction, or inadequate response to the generic equivalent drug (history of allergic reaction to the inactive ingredients used in the manufacturing process of a certain drug is acceptable).
4. **Requests for generic when Brand Name is preferred:** There are some drugs for which the Plan has determined it will be cost effective to prefer the use of the Brand Name formulation. In this case, the generic equivalent formulation is considered non-preferred and requires prior authorization. These requests require medical records documenting an allergic response, adverse reaction, or inadequate response to the Brand Name formulation. For the most up to date list of drugs where the Brand Name formulation is preferred, see the MassHealth Brand Name Preferred Over Generic Drug List (BOGL) at [www.mass.gov/druglist](http://www.mass.gov/druglist).
5. The following quantity limits apply:

Trintellix (vortioxetine)	30 tablets per 30 days
Viibryd (vilazodone)	30 tablets per 30 days
Auvelity (dextromethorphan/bupropion)	60 tablets per 30 days
Aplenzin (bupropion hydrobromide ER)	30 tablets per 30 days
Pristiq (desvenlafaxine succinate ER)	30 tablets per 30 days
Wellbutrin® XL (bupropion hydrochloride extended-release)	30 tablets per 30 days

**Appendix**

**MassHealth Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative**

The Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative requires prior authorization for members <18 of age for behavioral health medication classes and/or specific medication combinations (i.e., polypharmacy) that have limited evidence for safety and efficacy in the pediatric population. The aspects of the **Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative** that may apply to the antidepressant guideline include the following:

1. Behavioral health medication polypharmacy (pharmacy claims for 4 or more behavioral health medications [i.e., alpha2 agonists, antidepressants, antipsychotics, atomoxetine, benzodiazepines,





buspirone, cerebral stimulants, donepezil, hypnotic agents, memantine, modafinil, mood stabilizers, naltrexone, and viloxazine] filled within a 45-day period)

2. Antidepressant polypharmacy (overlapping pharmacy claims for 2 or more antidepressants for  $\geq 60$  days within a 90-day period)
3. Antidepressant pharmacy claim for pediatric members less than 6 years old

Please refer to the **Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative** guideline to assess appropriateness of therapy when reviewing prior authorization requests for pediatric members <18 years of age.

### Emsam® (selegiline) and tyramine restricted diet

If the request states that the member is unable to adhere to a MAOI tyramine-restricted diet, the 6 mg patch may be approvable; the use of the 9 mg patch and 12 mg patch still require dietary restrictions per package labeling.

For members <18 years of age, all requests for antidepressants will also be reviewed using additional criteria in the **Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative** guideline.

### Paraphilias

#### Paraphilias (deviant sexual behavior):

- Can be treated with SSRIs (at typical antidepressant doses), TCAs, hormonal treatments with steroidal antiandrogens (e.g. medroxyprogesterone), or GnRH analogues
- Compelling requests for paraphilias may be approved:
  - If member was recently hospitalized and received requested medication during hospitalization - > Approval duration 1 year
  - If request is for 2 SSRIs, 2 SNRIs, SSRI + venlafaxine, or SSRI + duloxetine -> Approval duration for 6 months

For members <18 years of age, all requests for antidepressants will also be reviewed using additional criteria in the **Pediatric Behavioral Health Medication Initiative** guideline.

### Requests for Desvenlafaxine Succinate Exceeding Quantity Limits

High doses of SSRIs and SNRIs may be clinically necessary in patients not responding to alternative therapies or with diagnoses such as OCD.

Requests exceeding established quantity limits of 1 unit/day documenting a partial response to FDA-approved dosing and failure to respond to alternative antidepressants can be approved up to 2 units/day for a total daily dose of 150 mg/day.

#### References

1. Simon G. Unipolar major depression in adults: Choosing initial treatment. In: Basow DS (Ed). UpToDate [database on the internet]. Waltham (MA): UpToDate; 2020 [cited 2020 Feb 4]. Available from: <http://www.utdol.com/utd/index.do>
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3. EMSAM® [package insert]. Tampa (FL): Somerset Pharmaceuticals, Inc; 2015 Mar.
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21. Forfivo® [package insert]. Austin (TX): Edgemon Pharmaceuticals; 2014 June.
22. Wellbutrin XL® (bupropion extended-release) [package insert]. Research Triangle Park (NC): GlaxoSmithKline; 2014 Dec.
23. Remeron SolTab® [package insert]. Whitehouse Station (NJ): Merck & Co.; 2016 Jul.
24. Symbyax® (fluoxetine/olanzapine) [package insert]. Indianapolis (IN): Eli Lilly and Company; 2014 Dec.
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26. Zulresso® [package insert]. Cambridge (MA): Sage Pharmaceuticals.; 2019 Jun.
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### **Review History**

02/08/2023 - Reviewed and created for Feb P&T; matched MH UPPL. Effective 4/1/23.

4/12/23 – Reviewed and updated for Apr P&T. Added appendix criteria into criteria per NCQA standards. Added antidepressant polypharmacy to criteria. Added Auvelity® (dextromethorphan/ bupropion) and Fetzima® (levomilnacipran) to policy. Added quantity limits for: Fetzima, Trintellix, Viibryd, Auvelity, Aplenzin, Pristiq, Wellbutrin XL. Removed maprotiline from policy due to obsolete status. Effective 6/5/23

05/10/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Admin update to allow Spravato be available through both the pharmacy and medical benefits with PA. Effective 7/1/23.

07/12/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Formatting updates to drug table. Simplified approvable diagnoses. Brand preferred and mandatory generic language was added under Limitations. Clarified polypharmacy description. Effective 7/31/23.

11/15/23 – Reviewed and updated for P&T. Viibryd removed from BOGL (no longer brand preferred). No clinical changes. Effective 12/4/23

