2025 Step Therapy (ST) Criteria

Some drugs require step therapy pre-approval. This means that your doctor must have you first try a different drug to treat your medical condition before we will cover a drug that needs step therapy pre-approval.

Below you will find a table of drugs that require step therapy pre-approval. If you find your drug on this list, talk to your doctor about what other drugs you could try first.

To see if your drug is on the list, refer to the index located at the end of this document for the medication you are looking for or use the search feature within your web browser by keying 

on your keyboard.

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ANTIPSYCHOTICS (ORAL) - PST

Products Affected

Step 1:

- *aripiprazole 1 mg/ml oral solution*
- *aripiprazole 10 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *aripiprazole 10 mg tablet*
- *aripiprazole 15 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *aripiprazole 15 mg tablet*
- *aripiprazole 2 mg tablet*
- *aripiprazole 20 mg tablet*
- *aripiprazole 30 mg tablet*
- *aripiprazole 5 mg tablet*
- *asenapine 10 mg sublingual tablet*
- *asenapine 2.5 mg sublingual tablet*
- *asenapine 5 mg sublingual tablet*
- CAPLYTA 10.5 MG CAPSULE
- CAPLYTA 21 MG CAPSULE
- CAPLYTA 42 MG CAPSULE
- COBENFY 100 MG-20 MG CAPSULE
- COBENFY 125 MG-30 MG CAPSULE
- COBENFY 50 MG-20 MG CAPSULE
- COBENFY STARTER PACK 50 MG-20 MG/100 MG-20 MG CAPSULES IN A DOSE PACK
- *lurasidone 120 mg tablet*
- *lurasidone 20 mg tablet*
- *lurasidone 40 mg tablet*
- *lurasidone 60 mg tablet*
- *lurasidone 80 mg tablet*
- *olanzapine 10 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *olanzapine 10 mg tablet*
- *olanzapine 15 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *olanzapine 15 mg tablet*
- *olanzapine 2.5 mg tablet*
- *olanzapine 20 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *olanzapine 20 mg tablet*
- *olanzapine 5 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *olanzapine 5 mg tablet*
- *olanzapine 7.5 mg tablet*
- *paliperidone er 1.5 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *paliperidone er 3 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *paliperidone er 6 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *paliperidone er 9 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *quetiapine 100 mg tablet*
- *quetiapine 200 mg tablet*
- *quetiapine 25 mg tablet*
- *quetiapine 300 mg tablet*
- *quetiapine 400 mg tablet*
- *quetiapine 50 mg tablet*
- *quetiapine er 150 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *quetiapine er 200 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *quetiapine er 300 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *quetiapine er 400 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *quetiapine er 50 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- REXULTI 0.25 MG TABLET
- REXULTI 0.5 MG TABLET
- REXULTI 1 MG TABLET
- REXULTI 2 MG TABLET
- REXULTI 3 MG TABLET
- REXULTI 4 MG TABLET
- *risperidone 0.25 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *risperidone 0.25 mg tablet*
- *risperidone 0.5 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *risperidone 0.5 mg tablet*
- *risperidone 1 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *risperidone 1 mg tablet*
- *risperidone 1 mg/ml oral solution*
- *risperidone 2 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *risperidone 2 mg tablet*
- *risperidone 3 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *risperidone 3 mg tablet*
- *risperidone 4 mg disintegrating tablet*
- *risperidone 4 mg tablet*
- VRAYLAR 1.5 MG CAPSULE
- VRAYLAR 3 MG CAPSULE

- VRAYLAR 4.5 MG CAPSULE
- VRAYLAR 6 MG CAPSULE
- *ziprasidone 20 mg capsule*
- *ziprasidone 40 mg capsule*
- *ziprasidone 60 mg capsule*
- *ziprasidone 80 mg capsule*

Step 2:

- FANAPT 1 MG TABLET
- FANAPT 10 MG TABLET
- FANAPT 12 MG TABLET
- FANAPT 1MG(2)-2 MG(2)-4MG(2)-6 MG(2) TABLETS IN A DOSE PACK
- FANAPT 2 MG TABLET
- FANAPT 4 MG TABLET
- FANAPT 6 MG TABLET
- FANAPT 8 MG TABLET

Details

Criteria	If the patient has tried two Step 1 drugs, approve the requested Step 2 drug. [Note: A trial of the brand name equivalent of a generic step 1 product will also count towards this requirement.] Approve if the patient is currently taking the requested drug. Approve if the patient has taken the requested drug at any time in the past.

CONSTIPATION AGENTS - OTHER - PST

Products Affected

Step 1:

- SYMPROIC 0.2 MG TABLET

Step 2:

- RELISTOR 12 MG/0.6 ML SUBCUTANEOUS SOLUTION
- RELISTOR 12 MG/0.6 ML SUBCUTANEOUS SYRINGE
- RELISTOR 8 MG/0.4 ML SUBCUTANEOUS SYRINGE

Details

Criteria	If the patient has tried a Step 1 drug, approve the requested Step 2 drug. Approve Relistor injection if being prescribed for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation in an adult patient with advanced illness who is receiving palliative care without a trial of a Step 1 drug.

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DEXTROMETHORPHAN/BUPROPION

Products Affected

Step 1:

- *bupropion hcl 100 mg tablet*
- *bupropion hcl 75 mg tablet*
- *bupropion hcl sr 100 mg tablet,12 hr sustained-release*
- *bupropion hcl sr 150 mg tablet,12 hr sustained-release*
- *bupropion hcl sr 200 mg tablet,12 hr sustained-release*
- *bupropion hcl xl 150 mg 24 hr tablet, extended release*
- *bupropion hcl xl 300 mg 24 hr tablet, extended release*
- *citalopram 10 mg tablet*
- *citalopram 10 mg/5 ml oral solution*
- *citalopram 20 mg tablet*
- *citalopram 40 mg tablet*
- *desvenlafaxine succinate er 100 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *desvenlafaxine succinate er 25 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *desvenlafaxine succinate er 50 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *duloxetine 20 mg capsule,delayed release*
- *duloxetine 30 mg capsule,delayed release*
- *duloxetine 60 mg capsule,delayed release*
- *escitalopram 10 mg tablet*
- *escitalopram 20 mg tablet*
- *escitalopram 5 mg tablet*
- *escitalopram 5 mg/5 ml oral solution*
- *fluoxetine 10 mg capsule*
- *fluoxetine 20 mg capsule*
- *fluoxetine 20 mg/5 ml (4 mg/ml) oral solution*
- *fluoxetine 40 mg capsule*
- *fluvoxamine 100 mg tablet*
- *fluvoxamine 25 mg tablet*
- *fluvoxamine 50 mg tablet*
- *nefazodone 100 mg tablet*
- *nefazodone 150 mg tablet*
- *nefazodone 200 mg tablet*
- *nefazodone 250 mg tablet*
- *nefazodone 50 mg tablet*
- *paroxetine 10 mg tablet*
- *paroxetine 10 mg/5 ml oral suspension*
- *paroxetine 20 mg tablet*
- *paroxetine 30 mg tablet*
- *paroxetine 40 mg tablet*
- *paroxetine er 12.5 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *paroxetine er 25 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *paroxetine er 37.5 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr*
- *sertraline 100 mg tablet*
- *sertraline 20 mg/ml oral concentrate*
- *sertraline 25 mg tablet*
- *sertraline 50 mg tablet*
- *venlafaxine 100 mg tablet*
- *venlafaxine 25 mg tablet*
- *venlafaxine 37.5 mg tablet*
- *venlafaxine 50 mg tablet*
- *venlafaxine 75 mg tablet*
- *venlafaxine er 150 mg capsule,extended release 24 hr*
- *venlafaxine er 37.5 mg capsule,extended release 24 hr*
- *venlafaxine er 75 mg capsule,extended release 24 hr*
- *vilazodone 10 mg tablet*
- *vilazodone 20 mg tablet*
- *vilazodone 40 mg tablet*

Step 2:

- AUVELITY 45 MG-105 MG TABLET, EXTENDED RELEASE

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Details

Criteria	Approve if the patient has tried a generic SSRI OR SNRI AND separately tried bupropion. Approve Auvelity if the patient has suicidal ideation without a trial of a Step 1 drug. Approve Auvelity if the patient is currently receiving Auvelity or has taken Auvelity in the past.

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PULMONARY ANTI-INFLAMMATORY - PST

Products Affected

Step 1:

- ALVESCO 160 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER
- ALVESCO 80 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER
- ASMANEX HFA 100 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER
- ASMANEX HFA 200 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER
- ASMANEX HFA 50 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 MCG/ACTUATION(30 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHALR
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 MCG/ACTUATION(120 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHLR
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 MCG/ACTUATION(30 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHALR
- ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 MCG/ACTUATION(60 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHALR
- PULMICORT FLEXHALER 180 MCG/ACTUATION BREATH ACTIVATED
- PULMICORT FLEXHALER 90 MCG/ACTUATION BREATH ACTIVATED
- QVAR REDIHALER 40 MCG/ACTUATION HFA BREATH ACTIVATED AEROSOL
- QVAR REDIHALER 80 MCG/ACTUATION HFA BREATH ACTIVATED AEROSOL

Step 2:

- FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 110 MCG/ACTUATION HFA AEROSOL INHALER
- FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 220 MCG/ACTUATION HFA AEROSOL INHALER
- FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 44 MCG/ACTUATION HFA AEROSOL INHALER

Details

Criteria	If the patient has tried two Step 1 drugs, approve the requested Step 2 drug. If the patient is 5 to 11 years of age and is unable to use BOTH a dry powder inhaler AND a breath-actuated metered-dose inhaler (i.e., Qvar Redihaler), approve fluticasone propionate HFA if the patient has tried Asmanex HFA. If the patient is 4 years of age or younger, approve fluticasone propionate HFA (AA to Flovent HFA) without a trial of a Step 1 drug. If the patient is being treated for eosinophilic esophagitis or chronic graft versus host disease with lung involvement (bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome), approve fluticasone propionate HFA without a trial of a Step 1 drug.

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Index

A

ALVESCO 160 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER..... 6
ALVESCO 80 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER..... 6
aripiprazole 1 mg/ml oral solution..... 1, 2
aripiprazole 10 mg disintegrating tablet . 1, 2
aripiprazole 10 mg tablet 1, 2
aripiprazole 15 mg disintegrating tablet . 1, 2
aripiprazole 15 mg tablet 1, 2
aripiprazole 2 mg tablet 1, 2
aripiprazole 20 mg tablet 1, 2
aripiprazole 30 mg tablet 1, 2
aripiprazole 5 mg tablet 1, 2
asenapine 10 mg sublingual tablet..... 1, 2
asenapine 2.5 mg sublingual tablet..... 1, 2
asenapine 5 mg sublingual tablet..... 1, 2
ASMANEX HFA 100 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER..... 6
ASMANEX HFA 200 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER..... 6
ASMANEX HFA 50 MCG/ACTUATION AEROSOL INHALER..... 6
ASMANEX TWISTHALER 110 MCG/ACTUATION(30 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHALR..... 6
ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 MCG/ACTUATION(120 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHLR 6
ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 MCG/ACTUATION(30 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHALR..... 6
ASMANEX TWISTHALER 220 MCG/ACTUATION(60 DOSES) BREATH ACTIVATED INHALR..... 6
AUVELITY 45 MG-105 MG TABLET, EXTENDED RELEASE..... 4, 5

B

bupropion hcl 100 mg tablet 4, 5
bupropion hcl 75 mg tablet 4, 5
bupropion hcl sr 100 mg tablet,12 hr sustained-release 4, 5
bupropion hcl sr 150 mg tablet,12 hr sustained-release 4, 5
bupropion hcl sr 200 mg tablet,12 hr sustained-release 4, 5
bupropion hcl xl 150 mg 24 hr tablet, extended release 4, 5
bupropion hcl xl 300 mg 24 hr tablet, extended release 4, 5

C

CAPLYTA 10.5 MG CAPSULE..... 1, 2
CAPLYTA 21 MG CAPSULE..... 1, 2
CAPLYTA 42 MG CAPSULE..... 1, 2
citalopram 10 mg tablet 4, 5
citalopram 10 mg/5 ml oral solution..... 4, 5
citalopram 20 mg tablet 4, 5
citalopram 40 mg tablet 4, 5
COBENFY 100 MG-20 MG CAPSULE 1, 2
COBENFY 125 MG-30 MG CAPSULE 1, 2
COBENFY 50 MG-20 MG CAPSULE.. 1, 2
COBENFY STARTER PACK 50 MG-20 MG/100 MG-20 MG CAPSULES IN A DOSE PACK 1, 2

D

desvenlafaxine succinate er 100 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr..... 4, 5
desvenlafaxine succinate er 25 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr..... 4, 5
desvenlafaxine succinate er 50 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr..... 4, 5
duloxetine 20 mg capsule,delayed release . 4, 5
duloxetine 30 mg capsule,delayed release . 4, 5
duloxetine 60 mg capsule,delayed release . 4, 5

E

escitalopram 10 mg tablet 4, 5
escitalopram 20 mg tablet 4, 5
escitalopram 5 mg tablet 4, 5
escitalopram 5 mg/5 ml oral solution..... 4, 5

F

FANAPT 1 MG TABLET 2
FANAPT 10 MG TABLET 2

FANAPT 12 MG TABLET 2
FANAPT 1MG(2)-2 MG(2)-4MG(2)-6 MG(2) TABLETS IN A DOSE PACK... 2
FANAPT 2 MG TABLET 2
FANAPT 4 MG TABLET 2
FANAPT 6 MG TABLET 2
FANAPT 8 MG TABLET 2
fluoxetine 10 mg capsule 4, 5
fluoxetine 20 mg capsule 4, 5
fluoxetine 20 mg/5 ml (4 mg/ml) oral solution..... 4, 5
fluoxetine 40 mg capsule 4, 5
FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 110 MCG/ACTUATION HFA AEROSOL INHALER 6
FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 220 MCG/ACTUATION HFA AEROSOL INHALER 6
FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 44 MCG/ACTUATION HFA AEROSOL INHALER 6
fluvoxamine 100 mg tablet 4, 5
fluvoxamine 25 mg tablet 4, 5
fluvoxamine 50 mg tablet 4, 5
L
lurasidone 120 mg tablet 1, 2
lurasidone 20 mg tablet 1, 2
lurasidone 40 mg tablet 1, 2
lurasidone 60 mg tablet 1, 2
lurasidone 80 mg tablet 1, 2
N
nefazodone 100 mg tablet 4, 5
nefazodone 150 mg tablet 4, 5
nefazodone 200 mg tablet 4, 5
nefazodone 250 mg tablet 4, 5
nefazodone 50 mg tablet 4, 5
O
olanzapine 10 mg disintegrating tablet ... 1, 2
olanzapine 10 mg tablet 1, 2
olanzapine 15 mg disintegrating tablet ... 1, 2
olanzapine 15 mg tablet 1, 2
olanzapine 2.5 mg tablet 1, 2
olanzapine 20 mg disintegrating tablet ... 1, 2
olanzapine 20 mg tablet 1, 2
olanzapine 5 mg disintegrating tablet 1, 2
olanzapine 5 mg tablet 1, 2
olanzapine 7.5 mg tablet 1, 2
P
paliperidone er 1.5 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
paliperidone er 3 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
paliperidone er 6 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
paliperidone er 9 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
paroxetine 10 mg tablet..... 4, 5
paroxetine 10 mg/5 ml oral suspension .. 4, 5
paroxetine 20 mg tablet..... 4, 5
paroxetine 30 mg tablet..... 4, 5
paroxetine 40 mg tablet..... 4, 5
paroxetine er 12.5 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 4, 5
paroxetine er 25 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 4, 5
paroxetine er 37.5 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 4, 5
PULMICORT FLEXHALER 180 MCG/ACTUATION BREATH ACTIVATED..... 6
PULMICORT FLEXHALER 90 MCG/ACTUATION BREATH ACTIVATED..... 6
Q
quetiapine 100 mg tablet..... 1, 2
quetiapine 200 mg tablet..... 1, 2
quetiapine 25 mg tablet..... 1, 2
quetiapine 300 mg tablet..... 1, 2
quetiapine 400 mg tablet..... 1, 2
quetiapine 50 mg tablet..... 1, 2
quetiapine er 150 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
quetiapine er 200 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
quetiapine er 300 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
quetiapine er 400 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2
quetiapine er 50 mg tablet,extended release 24 hr 1, 2

QVAR REDIHALER 40 MCG/ACTUATION HFA BREATH ACTIVATED AEROSOL 6
QVAR REDIHALER 80 MCG/ACTUATION HFA BREATH ACTIVATED AEROSOL 6
R
RELISTOR 12 MG/0.6 ML SUBCUTANEOUS SOLUTION..... 3
RELISTOR 12 MG/0.6 ML SUBCUTANEOUS SYRINGE 3
RELISTOR 8 MG/0.4 ML SUBCUTANEOUS SYRINGE 3
REXULTI 0.25 MG TABLET..... 1, 2
REXULTI 0.5 MG TABLET..... 1, 2
REXULTI 1 MG TABLET..... 1, 2
REXULTI 2 MG TABLET..... 1, 2
REXULTI 3 MG TABLET..... 1, 2
REXULTI 4 MG TABLET..... 1, 2
risperidone 0.25 mg disintegrating tablet 1, 2
risperidone 0.25 mg tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 0.5 mg disintegrating tablet.. 1, 2
risperidone 0.5 mg tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 1 mg disintegrating tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 1 mg tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 1 mg/ml oral solution..... 1, 2
risperidone 2 mg disintegrating tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 2 mg tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 3 mg disintegrating tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 3 mg tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 4 mg disintegrating tablet..... 1, 2
risperidone 4 mg tablet..... 1, 2
S
sertraline 100 mg tablet..... 4, 5
sertraline 20 mg/ml oral concentrate..... 4, 5
sertraline 25 mg tablet..... 4, 5
sertraline 50 mg tablet..... 4, 5
SYMPROIC 0.2 MG TABLET 3
V
venlafaxine 100 mg tablet..... 4, 5
venlafaxine 25 mg tablet..... 4, 5
venlafaxine 37.5 mg tablet..... 4, 5
venlafaxine 50 mg tablet..... 4, 5
venlafaxine 75 mg tablet..... 4, 5
venlafaxine er 150 mg capsule,extended release 24 hr 4, 5
venlafaxine er 37.5 mg capsule,extended release 24 hr 4, 5
venlafaxine er 75 mg capsule,extended release 24 hr 4, 5
vilazodone 10 mg tablet..... 4, 5
vilazodone 20 mg tablet..... 4, 5
vilazodone 40 mg tablet..... 4, 5
VRAYLAR 1.5 MG CAPSULE..... 1, 2
VRAYLAR 3 MG CAPSULE..... 1, 2
VRAYLAR 4.5 MG CAPSULE..... 2
VRAYLAR 6 MG CAPSULE..... 2
Z
ziprasidone 20 mg capsule..... 2
ziprasidone 40 mg capsule..... 2
ziprasidone 60 mg capsule..... 2
ziprasidone 80 mg capsule..... 2

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Beneficiaries must use network pharmacies to access their premium and/or copayment/coinsurance may change on January 1, 2026.

This document includes ConnectiCare Medicare Plan's partial formulary as of July 1, 2025. For a complete, updated formulary, please visit our website at www.connecticare.com/Medicare or call the Member Services number below.

For alternative formats or language, please call Member Services toll free at:

ConnectiCare's Member Services at 800-224-2273. From Oct. 1 through March 31: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. From April 1 through Sept. 30: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. TTY users should call 711.

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