



Applicable Operating Company: Amwins Group Benefits, LLC (AGBL)

Policy Name: Specialty Pharmacy (White – Bagging) Appeals and Exceptions Policy

Regulatory Authority: Nebraska LB198; Neb. Rev. Stat. § 44-4613(4)

PURPOSE STATEMENT

This Policy establishes the appeal and exception processes for health care providers and pharmacies when a clinician-administered drug is subject to a specialty pharmacy dispensing requirement (including white bagging) for commercial pharmacy benefits administered by AGBL in Nebraska.

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

- Applies to commercial pharmacy benefits administered by AGBL in Nebraska requiring dispensing through a specialty pharmacy for clinician-administered drugs.
- Applies to appeals/requests for exceptions by health care providers and pharmacies.
- Does not replace utilization management (UM)/prior authorization (PA) medical necessity appeals or Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) pricing appeals.

POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy is intended to satisfy Neb. Rev. Stat. § 44-4613(4) by establishing and disclosing a process that allows a health care provider or pharmacy to request and obtain an exception to a specialty-pharmacy (white-bagging) dispensing requirement when (a) a clinician-administered drug is not delivered as required, or (b) an attending provider reasonably believes a covered person may experience harm without the immediate use of a clinician-administered drug that the provider or pharmacy has in stock.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Clinician-administered drug: A drug administered by a health care provider to a covered person.
- Specialty pharmacy / white-bagging requirement: A dispensing-channel requirement directing shipment/dispensing through a designated specialty pharmacy of a clinician-administered drug to a provider for administration by a provider.
- Exception/appeal: A request to deviate from the specialty pharmacy dispensing requirement, or to resolve an issue arising from that requirement, including late delivery or urgent need.
- Expedited appeal: A priority review when an attending provider reasonably believes a covered person may experience harm without immediate access to a clinician-administered drug that the provider or pharmacy has in stock.

PROCESS

AGBL discloses the specialty pharmacy appeal and exception process to affected health care providers and pharmacies through applicable provider/pharmacy manuals, contractual documents, and/or other written materials.

STANDARD EXCEPTION / APPEAL PROCESS FOR DISPENSING-CHANNEL REQUIREMENT

Provider or Pharmacy Exception Requests

- A health care provider or pharmacy may request an exception to dispense or source a clinician-administered drug outside the designated specialty pharmacy channel when the specialty pharmacy requirement applies.

- Requests should identify the covered person, drug, and basis for the request and may include supporting information if available.
- AGBL reviews requests independently from claims adjudication and UM/PA medical necessity determinations.

DETERMINATION AND NOTICE

- AGBL issues a written determination communicating the disposition of the request.
- When statutory conditions are met, the determination provides for an exception to the specialty pharmacy dispensing requirement.

APPEAL PROCEDURES WHEN A DRUG IS NOT DELIVERED ON TIME

- If a clinician-administered drug subject to a specialty pharmacy requirement is not delivered on time, the health care provider or pharmacy may submit an appeal.
- The request must identify the covered person, drug, and the delivery issue (including the expected administration date/time as applicable) and any supporting documentation.
- AGBL evaluates the request and communicates determination.

EXPEDITED APPEAL WHEN IMMEDIATE USE IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT HARM

- A provider or pharmacy may request expedited handling when an attending provider reasonably believes a covered person may experience harm without immediate use of an in-stock clinician-administered drug.
- Requests are handled on an accelerated basis to support timely administration.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

- AGBL maintains oversight of specialty pharmacy appeal and exception functions and reviews this Policy periodically for compliance.