



Addressing drugs shortages for oncology use

We are closely monitoring drug shortages for oncology use listed on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration¹ and American Society of Health-system Pharmacists² sites. To help address current oncology drug shortages and minimize delay for care, we've updated our prior authorization process.



What is changing?

- We are expediting reviews for alternative medicine and/or regimen prior authorization requests.
- If a drug is on the shortage list and an alternative drug or regimen is supported by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN[®]) guidelines³, then your request will be approved.
- If a drug is on the shortage list and an alternative drug or regimen is not supported by the NCCN guidelines, then the prior authorization request will be pended for an oncologist review. If appropriate, these requests will be approved for 6 months during the drug shortage.
- You do not need to request a new prior authorization for the same medication if you are changing the time between doses (as recommended by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)). However, when the prior authorization period ends, you need to request a new one to continue therapy.

Medication shortage	Alternative medication(s)
Carboplatin	Oxaliplatin, Cisplatin
Cisplatin	Oxaliplatin, Carboplatin
Docetaxel	Paclitaxel, Cabazitaxel, Abraxane [®]
Capecitabine	Xeloda [®] , Fluorouracil

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We will continue to monitor these drug shortages and provide additional updates as appropriate.

Questions?

Please call the Optum Cancer Authorization Program at **888-397-8129** 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. CT, Monday–Friday, email unitedoncology@uhc.com or find more information about **cancer prior authorization** on our website.

References:

- ¹ U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Drug Shortages. Retrieved June 2, 2023, from www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/drug-shortages
- ² American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Drug Shortages. Retrieved June 2, 2023, from www.ashp.org/drugshortages?loginreturnUri=SSOCheckOnly
- ³ The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines[®]) www.nccn.org/guidelines/category_1. American Society of Clinical Oncology. Drug Shortages. Retrieved June 2, 2023, from old-prod.asco.org/practice-patients/practice-support/drug-shortages
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Managing Drug Product Shortages. Retrieved June 2, 2023, from www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/policy-guidelines/docs/guidelines/managing-drug-product-shortages.ashx
- Society of Gynecologic Oncology. Drug Shortage. Retrieved June 2, 2023, from www.sgo.org/news/drugshortage/