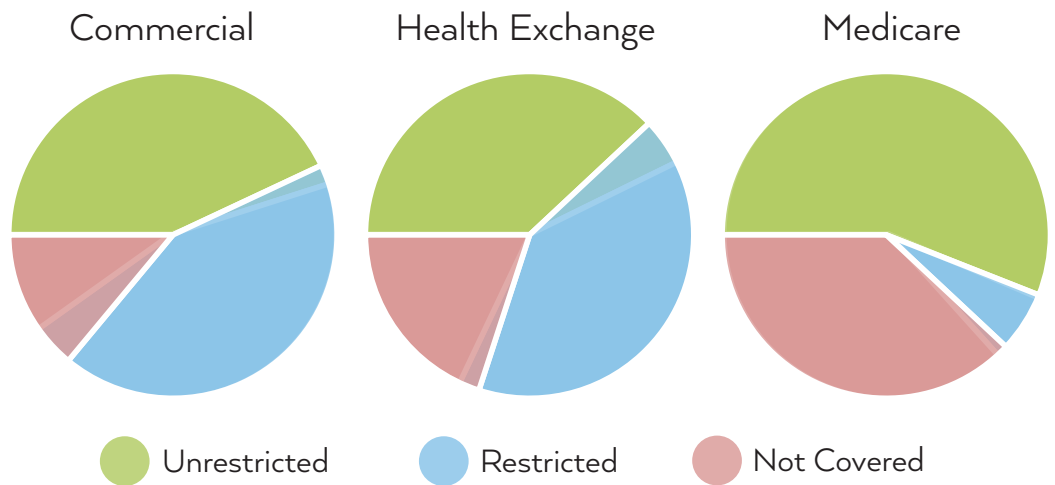


Reality Check: Diabetes

Coverage

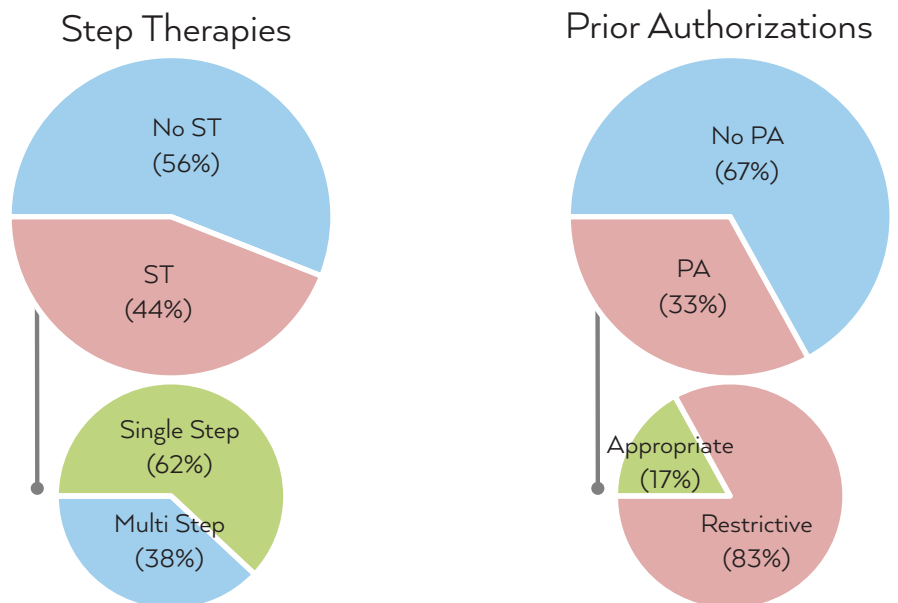
Drugs

Pharmacy benefit reimbursement varies across the major coverage channels for diabetes treatments. Over the past two quarters, both commercial and health exchange formularies experienced a slight average increase in restricted lives.



Payers

Utilization management for top diabetes treatments in the pharmacy benefit landscape shows the level of restrictive PAs as well as the prevalence of step edits. While the average step therapy policy shifted away from multiple step edits over the past two quarters, restrictions are still critical to understand.



Key Players



Reality Check: Diabetes

Trends

Comparing Forecast to Script Volumes

The specific market event of two type-2 diabetes treatments approved by the FDA in a single day led to some additional research for point-of-care implications by FirstWord Pharma. A portion of industry experts question the real world adoption of these treatments - which is the focus of their research.

[Via FirstWord Pharma](#)



FirstWord PHARMA [New Report] Payer viewpoint: What should value-added services be providing?

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Physician Views: How do US diabetes prescribers size up Novo Nordisk's Xultophy and Sanofi's Soliqua?

(Ref: Physician Views Desk)
November 29th, 2016
By: Simon King

Tags: [Physician Views](#) [Soliqua](#) [Xultophy](#) [Novo Nordisk](#) [Sanofi](#) [Diabetes](#) [General Practice](#) [Internal Medicine](#) [Clinical Research \(R&D\)](#) [Marketing & Sales](#) [Medical Affairs](#) [Regulatory Affairs](#)

After a short regulatory delay, US physicians will be able to get their hands on basal insulin-GLP-1 agonist combination products for the treatment of type 2 diabetes next year. Last week, the FDA simultaneously approved Novo Nordisk's Xultophy 100/3.6, which combines the long-acting insulin Tresiba (degludec) and the GLP-1 analogue Victoza (liraglutide), and Sanofi's Soliqua 100/33, which combines Lantus (insulin glargine) and the GLP-1 receptor agonist...

Metformin Prescribing Shortcomings

A recent study supports the concept that metformin prescribing for type 2 diabetes patients is substandard. With a large population of at-risk patients, there is reason to believe that physicians require more education and supporting evidence to improve treatment plans for this disease area.

[Via NCBI](#)



NCBI Resources | How to

PMCID | PMC | Advanced | Journal list

Journal List | Ther Adv Chronic Dis | v 7(5); 2016 Sep | PMC4494304

Therapeutic Advances in Chronic Disease | SAGE

Prescribing attitudes, behaviors and opinions regarding metformin for patients with diabetes: a focus group study

Katy E. Trinkley, Daniel C. Malone, Jennifer A. Nelson, and Joseph J. Savaen

Abstract

Background: The purpose of this study was to identify the reasons why metformin prescribing is suboptimal.

Methods: Two semi-structured focus groups with attitudinal questionnaires and a brief educational presentation were held in two US cities. Participants included providers (physicians, pharmacists, midlevel practitioners) caring for patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) in an ambulatory setting. Outcome measures included...

Reality Check: **Diabetes**

Key Findings

Substantial PAs and Step Edits

With a substantial portion of treatments required to step through metformin, sulfonylurea and/or established branded products, understanding the utilization management landscape is crucial. While there is a variance by sub-class, around half of payer pharmacy benefit lives require a step therapy.

Policy Standardization Underway

A comprehensive review of utilization management policies reveals the inconsistencies in PA and step therapy criteria format across major health plans and PBMs. Due to the diversity of the market basket, from orals to insulins and SGLT2 & GLP-1 inhibitors to combination therapies and DPP-4 inhibitors, the complexity of policies continues to provide challenges to prescribers.

Market Access Variance by Geography & Channel

Diabetes treatments face a complex coverage landscape, specifically within the health exchange marketplace where over half of lives are restricted by a PA or step therapy. However, Medicare Part D formularies fail to cover products for the greatest percentage of pharmacy benefit lives. Massive pharmacy benefit managers, like [CVS](#) and [Express Scripts](#), include several anti-diabetic products on their 2016 formulary exclusion lists, noting mutual preferred alternatives. Certain manufacturers find success in focusing more energy on payer contracting and relationships.

Characteristics

Indications

Type 2
Diabetes
Mellitus

Step Therapy Policies

Step therapies exist for nearly half of covered lives in this snapshot. Of those step edits, just over one-third require multiple product steps

PA Policies

Prior authorization policies exist for rough one third of covered lives. When PAs exist, an overwhelming 83% are considered restrictive to the FDA approved label.