

<b>Department of Origin:</b> Pharmacy	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/17/2024
<b>Approved by:</b> Chief Medical Officer	<b>Date Approved:</b> 09/08/2024
<b>Pharmacy Clinical Policy Document:</b> Therapeutic Equivalence	<b>Replaces Effective Policy Dated:</b> 8/8/2022
<b>Reference #:</b> PP/T002	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 3

**PURPOSE:**

The intent of this Therapeutic Equivalence Pharmacy Clinical Policy is to provide coverage guidelines for medications and products that the FDA has determined are *therapeutically equivalent* and therefore approved as a *generic* or *biosimilar*.

Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific information. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this policy and the terms of the member's benefit plan or certificate of coverage, the terms of the member's benefit plan document will govern.

**POLICY:**

As part of the medication utilization management tools and cost-effective determination, the Plan may designate a preferred medication(s) that is *therapeutically equivalent* to a non-preferred medication(s).

Benefits must be available for health care services. Health care services must be ordered by a provider. Health care services must be medically necessary, applicable conservative treatments must have been tried, and the most cost-effective alternative must be requested for coverage consideration.

**COVERAGE:****I. Provider-administered medications or products**

- A. A preferred medication(s) or product may be required to be trialed before a non-preferred medication(s) when the medication(s) or product is *therapeutically equivalent* and when there is a lower net cost in comparison to its *biosimilar, brand, generic, or reference product*.
- B. Treatment naive members may be required to complete a *standard dosing cycle* of the preferred medication(s), where applicable.
- C. Approval of a non-preferred medication(s) or product will require documentation of the following:
  - 1 or 2, and 3
  1. Evidence of inadequate clinical response to preferred therapy and residual disease activity as demonstrated by a disease or condition specific scale or measurement; or
  2. Evidence of intolerance to or adverse event with the preferred medication(s); and
  3. Physician attestation that a superior clinical response would be expected with a non-preferred medication(s) or product, based on any of the following: a – c
    - a. A clinical practice guideline; or
    - b. A systematic evidence review; or
    - c. A high-quality clinical trial.

**II. Continuity of Care – Transition of Care for Provider-administered medications or products –**  
continuation of a non-preferred medication or product may be authorized to allow for transition to a preferred medication or product.

<b>Department of Origin:</b> Pharmacy	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/17/2024
<b>Approved by:</b> Chief Medical Officer	<b>Date Approved:</b> 09/08/2024
<b>Pharmacy Clinical Policy Document:</b> Therapeutic Equivalence	<b>Replaces Effective Policy Dated:</b> 8/8/2022
<b>Reference #:</b> PP/T002	<b>Page:</b> 2 of 3

## **DEFINITIONS:**

### Biologic (BLA):

Biologic agents are derived from natural sources (human, animal, microorganisms); these are large complex proteins applicable to the prevention, treatment, or cure of a disease or condition of human beings. Given the complexity of the drug and the difficulty to characterize a biologic, the manufacturing process is proprietary. Licensed by the Public Health Services Act (PHS) (section 351), the 351(a) pathway is utilized for the approval of biologics. Examples of biologics include: vaccine, blood products, antitoxin, allergy shots and cellular therapies.

### Biosimilar ("abbreviated" BLA):

A biosimilar is a biological product that is highly similar to the reference or innovator product, notwithstanding minor differences in clinically inactive components; and there are no clinically meaningful differences between biological the product and the reference product in terms of the safety, purity, and potency of the product. Created by the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCIA), the 351(k) pathway streamlined the licensure of biologics demonstrated to be biosimilar to a reference product with intentions of creating a low-cost alternative to innovator biologics. A list of licensed biological products with reference product exclusivity and biosimilarity or interchangeability evaluations care be viewed in the Purple Book.

### Brand and generic (NDA, ANDA):

Small molecule drugs, or conventional drugs, are pure chemical substances with a unique chemical structure. Licensed by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (section 505), conventional drug approvals occur via either NDA or ANDAs. To better illustrate the differences in each pathway, please note the following examples:

- 505(b)1: Traditional development path for brand name drugs whose active ingredient has not previously been FDA approved
- 505(b)2: Drugs with a new indication, change in dosage form, and combination products of previously FDA approved drugs
- 505(j): Generic version of a previously FDA approved drug with the same dosage form, strength, route of administration, quality, active ingredient, and intended use. Approved drug products with therapeutic equivalence evaluations can be viewed in the Orange Book.

### Follow-On Biologic (NDA):

Follow-on biologic agents are highly similar to innovator biologic drugs, where the innovator biologic drug was approved via section 505 of the FD&C Act, and not through the 351(a) pathway. For example, historically hormones (ie, insulins) have been regulated as drugs, under section 505 of the FD&C Act, and not as biologics under the PHS Act. Once BPCIA phase-in is complete, this pathway will no longer exist.

### Interchangeable:

Interchangeable products are both biosimilar to an FDA-approved reference product, and can be expected to produce the same clinical result as the reference product in any given patient. An interchangeable product may be substituted for the reference product without the intervention of the health care provider who prescribed the reference product.

### Reference product:

The single biological product licensed by the FDA under section 351(a) of the PHS Act, against which a proposed biosimilar biological product is evaluated in its biosimilar application.

<b>Department of Origin:</b> Pharmacy	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/17/2024
<b>Approved by:</b> Chief Medical Officer	<b>Date Approved:</b> 09/08/2024
<b>Pharmacy Clinical Policy Document:</b> Therapeutic Equivalence	<b>Replaces Effective Policy Dated:</b> 8/8/2022
<b>Reference #:</b> PP/T002	<b>Page:</b> 3 of 3

## Standard Dosing Cycle:

A period of dosing, including induction (higher dose and/or at closer intervals), and at least one maintenance (repeated on a regular schedule) and as described in the prescribing information on the package insert.

## Therapeutically Equivalent:

Medications that produce the same or comparable therapeutic outcome and adverse event profile.

## **REFERENCES:**

1. Medical Management Process Manual UR015 Use of Medical Policy and Criteria
2. Clinical Policy: MP/C009 Coverage Determination Guidelines
3. FDA/Vaccines, Blood and Biologics main page. Food and Drug Administration Web site. <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/default.htm>. Accessed 04-19-2024.
4. Richardson, E. Biosimilars. Health Policy Briefs. 10/10/13. Retrieved from [http://www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs/brief.php?brief\\_id=100](http://www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs/brief.php?brief_id=100). Accessed 04-19-2024.
5. US Food and Drug Administration. New Drug Application (NDA). Content current as of 01/21/22. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/NewDrugApplicationNDA/default.htm>. Accessed 04-19-2024.
6. US Food and Drug Administration. Abbreviated New Drug Application: Generics (ANDAs). Content current as of 12/16/22. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/AbbreviatedNewDrugApplicationANDAGenerics/default.htm>. Accessed 04-19-2024.
7. US Food and Drug Administration. Therapeutic Biologics Application (BLA). Content current as of 02/24/20. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/TherapeuticBiologicApplications/default.htm>. Accessed 04-19-2024.
8. US Food and Drug Administration. Biosimilars. Content current as of 03/01/23. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/HowDrugsareDevelopedandApproved/ApprovalApplications/TherapeuticBiologicApplications/Biosimilars/default.htm>. Accessed 04-19-2024.
9. US Food and Drug Administration. Draft Guidance Document. Applications Covered by Section 505(b)(2). December 1999. Content current as of 04/27/20. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/drugs/guidancecomplianceregulatoryinformation/guidances/ucm079345.pdf>. Accessed 04-19-2024..
10. US Food and Drug Administration. Guidance Document. Considerations in Demonstrating Interchangeability with a Reference Product Guidance for the Industry. May 2019. Content current as of 05/06/20. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM537135.pdf>. Accessed 04-19-2024.

## **DOCUMENT HISTORY:**

<b>Created Date:</b> 04/18/19
<b>Reviewed Date:</b> 04/07/20, 04/07/21, 04/07/22, 2/27/2023, 04/15/2024
<b>Revised Date:</b> 08/05/22, 4/19/2024

## PreferredOne Community Health Plan Nondiscrimination Notice

PreferredOne Community Health Plan (“PCHP”) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. PCHP does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

PCHP:

Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact a Grievance Specialist.

If you believe that PCHP has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:

Grievance Specialist  
PreferredOne Community Health Plan  
PO Box 59052  
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0052  
Phone: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)  
Fax: 763.847.4010  
[customerservice@preferredone.com](mailto:customerservice@preferredone.com)

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, a Grievance Specialist is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

## Language Assistance Services

ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

XIYYEEFFANNAA: Afaan dubbattu Oroomiffa, taiaaajila gargaarsa afaanij, kanfaltiidhaan ala, ni argama. Bilbilaa 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)。

**ВНИМАНИЕ:** Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1.800.940.5049 (телетайп: 763.847.4013).

ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ማስታወሻ: የሚኖሩት ቋንቋ አማርኛ ከሆነ የትርጉም እርዳታ ድርጅቶች፣ በነጻ ሊያግዝዎት ተዘጋጅተዋል፡ ወደ ሚከተለው ቁጥር ይደውሉ፡ 1.800.940.5049 (መለስማት ለተሳናቸው፡ 763.847.4013)፡

ဟ်သ့ဟ်သး- နမၤကတိၤ ကသီၤ ကျိၣ်အယိၤ, နမၤန့ၣ် ကျိၣ်အတၢ်မၤစၢၤလၢ တလၢၣ်ဘျီၣ်လၢၣ်စၢၤ နီၣ်တမံၤဘၣ်သ့န့ၣ်လီၤ. ကိး 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ប្រយ័ត្ន៖ បើសិនជាអ្នកនិយាយ ភាសាខ្មែរ, សេវាជំនួយផ្នែកភាសា ដោយមិនគិតល្បួល គឺអាចមានសំបាប់រឺអ៊ែក។ ចូរទូរស័ព្ទ 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)។

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1.800.940.5049 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 763.847.4013).

ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013), 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

## PreferredOne Insurance Company Nondiscrimination Notice

PreferredOne Insurance Company ("PIC") complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. PIC does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

PIC:

Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact a Grievance Specialist.

If you believe that PIC has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:

Grievance Specialist  
PreferredOne Insurance Company  
PO Box 59212  
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0212  
Phone: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)  
Fax: 763.847.4010  
[customerservice@preferredone.com](mailto:customerservice@preferredone.com)

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, a Grievance Specialist is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

## Language Assistance Services

ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

XIYEEFFANNAA: Afaan dubbattu Oroomiffa, tajaajila gargaarsa afaanii, kanfaltiidhaan ala, ni argama. Bilbilaa 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)。

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1.800.940.5049 (телетайп: 763.847.4013).

បំពេញ: ប្រសិនបើ អ្នកនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ, សេវាជំនួយភាសា ដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ គឺអាចមានសំរាប់អ្នក។ ចូរ ទូរស័ព្ទ 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ማስታወሻ: የሚናገሩት ቋንቋ አማርኛ ከሆነ የትርጉም እርዳታ ድርጅቶች፡ በነጻ ሊያገኙበት ተዘጋጅተዋል፡ ወደ ሚከተለው ቁጥር ይደውሉ 1.800.940.5049 (ማስማት ለተሳናቸው: 763.847.4013) .

ဟံသာဝတီ: နမူနာတို့ ကညီ ကျိအသိ, နမူနာ ကျိအတိအကျတို့ တလက်ကွက်လက်စွာ နှိတ်မိသည့်သို့လိ။ ကိ: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ប្រយ័ត្ន: បើសិនជាអ្នកនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ, សេវាជំនួយភាសា ដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ គឺអាចមានសំរាប់អ្នក។ ចូរ ទូរស័ព្ទ 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث اذكر اللغة، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية تتوافر لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 1.800.940.5049 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: 763.847.4013).

ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013). 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).