Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors Step Therapy Program

**Preferred Drugs:**
- citalopram
- escitalopram
- fluoxetine
- fluoxetine DR
- fluvoxamine
- fluvoxamine ER
- paroxetine
- paroxetine CR
- Pexeva
- sertraline

**Non-Preferred Drugs:**
- Brintellix (vortioxetine) (SSRI as well as acts as an agonist or antagonist at various serotonin receptors)
- Brisdelle (paroxetine mesylate)
- Viibryd (vilazodone) (SSRI as well as 5HT1\textsubscript{A} receptor partial agonist)

**Criteria**

1. Any member 18 years of age or younger is excluded from this policy.

2. Citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, fluoxetine DR, fluvoxamine, fluvoxamine ER, paroxetine, paroxetine CR, Pexeva and sertraline are our preferred selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). No authorization is required for a member to have a prescription filled for one of our preferred SSRI products.

3. The member must have tried and failed and/or was intolerant to three of our preferred SSRI products before authorization will be given for one of the non-preferred products. On-line authorization is given when the participant has a prescription claims history of three of the preferred SSRI products within the previous 180 days.

4. If the member is started on a 2\textsuperscript{nd} step medication using "samples" without following the stated step criteria, authorization will not be given.

5. This program applies to members when starting on a medication for the first time as well as members restarting on medications after a lapse of 180 days.