



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

# Lemtrada® and Tysabri® site-of-care program

## Frequently asked questions for providers

For Blue Cross' PPO (commercial) and BCN HMO<sup>SM</sup> (commercial) members

Updated: April 2020

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On May 1, 2020, Lemtrada<sup>(1),(2)</sup> and Tysabri<sup>(2)</sup> will be added to the site-of-care program for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network commercial members.

This means that for dates of service on or after May 1, 2020, authorization requests for these medications may not be approved unless the drugs are administered in certain sites of care.

These requirements will apply to requests for Blue Cross' PPO and BCN HMO members.

## About Lemtrada and Tysabri

### What types of medications are Lemtrada and Tysabri?

Lemtrada and Tysabri are medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. They are considered disease-modifying therapies, or DMTs, and are used to slow disease progression, treat relapses and lower relapse rates. They are intravenously infused by a health care provider and are covered under a member's medical benefit.

Lemtrada and Tysabri are each associated with the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, or REMS, program, a drug safety program the FDA requires to ensure that the benefits of a medication outweigh its risks. Providers and infusion locations must be REMS certified to administer these therapies.

### What is multiple sclerosis?

Multiple sclerosis, or MS, is a chronic disease that affects the central nervous system, or CNS, which is made up of the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves. It is thought to be

an immune-mediated disorder, in which the immune system incorrectly attacks healthy tissue in the CNS.

## About the site-of-care program

### What is the site-of-care program?

For members receiving clinically appropriate injectable or infusible drugs, the site-of-care program redirects members from a setting with a high cost of care to an alternative treatment site with a low cost of care, such as a provider's office or an ambulatory infusion center.

The member receives treatment with the same drug, at the same dose and frequency, in a location that may be more convenient.

### Will members be required to change their treatment location?

Members who receive Lemtrada or Tysabri infusions at a provider's office or an ambulatory infusion site won't need to make any changes. These members may continue to receive infusions at those locations.

For members who receive infusions at an outpatient hospital facility, please verify with the facility to confirm that they are considered an approved site of care. If the outpatient hospital facility is not an approved site of care, Blue Cross and BCN will work with the member and infusion provider to determine whether there's a more convenient, REMS-approved location in which they can receive therapy.

### Where can members find information on approved treatment locations?

To find approved treatment locations both within and outside of Michigan:

- For Lemtrada, visit [lemtradarems.com](http://lemtradarems.com).\*
- For Tysabri, visit Tysabri's [infusion site finder](http://tysabri.com)\* at [tysabri.com](http://tysabri.com).\*

Note: Providers and members need to confirm network participation prior to the date of service.

## Additional information

### Where can members learn more?

We encourage members to talk to their health care provider if they have questions about their multiple sclerosis treatment.

Members who have questions about their benefits can call the Customer Service number on the back of the Blue Cross or BCN member ID card. Customer Service



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hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. TTY users should call 711.

<sup>(1)</sup>Restriction on transition will be limited to select locations based on safety protocols that are in place for adverse reactions.

<sup>(2)</sup>Based on REMS program restrictions, the administration of Lemtrada and Tysabri is limited to authorized locations.

### References:

Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroinflammation Center. Weil Institute for Neurosciences, University of California San Francisco.

[https://multiplesclerosis.ucsf.edu/education\\_and\\_support/about\\_multiple\\_sclerosis](https://multiplesclerosis.ucsf.edu/education_and_support/about_multiple_sclerosis)\*

Multiple sclerosis FAQs. National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

[nationalmssociety.org/What-is-MS/MS-FAQ-s](https://nationalmssociety.org/What-is-MS/MS-FAQ-s)\*

\*Clicking this link means that you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're required to let you know we're not responsible for its content.