



Blue Cross of Idaho Statement on Prescription Drug Coverage Vytorin[®] (simvastatin/ezetimibe)

Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee decision

Effective October 1, 2009, Blue Cross of Idaho will no longer provide benefit coverage to most members for the prescription medication Vytorin. The Blue Cross of Idaho Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, made up of a group of practicing doctors and pharmacists from throughout Idaho, decided to remove Vytorin from the Blue Cross of Idaho formulary. However, several other equally effective brand name and generic prescription medications remain on the formulary.

Evidence supporting Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee decision

- *Taking simvastatin alone can lower your risk of heart disease as well as Vytorin.*
The makers of Vytorin published research results comparing high dose Vytorin 10mg/ 80mg to high dose simvastatin 80mg. The key conclusion from this study was Vytorin's ability to lower the risk for heart disease is no better than simvastatin alone.
- *Vytorin is not superior compared to sugar pills.*
Vytorin (simvastatin 40mg + ezetimibe 10mg) provided no significant benefit in reducing heart related problems when compared to sugar pills.

Formulary coverage

Blue Cross of Idaho continues to offer pharmacy benefit coverage for many cholesterol-lowering drugs in the same therapeutic category.

Tier 1: Generic drugs LOWEST COPAYMENT	Tier 2: Brand drugs MIDDLE COPAYMENT	Tier 3: Non-formulary drugs HIGHEST COPAYMENT
lovastatin pravastatin simvastatin	Crestor (rosuvastatin) Lipitor (atorvastatin)	Altoprev (lovastatin ER) Lescol XL (fluvastatin) Mevacor Pravachol Zetia (ezetimibe) Zocor