

Culinary Health Fund

PPO Provider Newsletter



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Important Telephone Numbers

Clinical Pathology Laboratories (CPL) 702-795-4900

Contracts and Credentialing

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702-892-7313 (option 1)

Culinary Health Centers

702-790-8000

Culinary Pharmacy

702-650-4417 (St. Louis Square)
702-963-9400 (Nellis Health Center)
725-223-2100 (Durango Health Center)
725-332-6464 (Craig Health Center)

Customer Service Office

702-733-9938

EyeMed

866-800-5457

Harmony Healthcare

702-251-8000 (24/7)
702-788-9875 (Rapid Response)

Nevada Health Solutions (NHS)

702-216-1653
<https://provider.nevadahealthsolutions.org/production>

OptumRx Prescription Services

866-611-5960 (24/7)
800-791-7658 (Home Delivery)
877-838-2907 (Specialty)

Zelis/ePayment 855-774-4392

Inactive Providers – April

The following is a list of providers* that are **no longer active** as a Plan Provider on the Culinary Health Fund provider network:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE	SPECIALTY
Burley	Aaron	APRN	Rheumatology
Ciccolo	Michael	MD	Cardiovascular/Thoracic Surgery
GROUPS			
Ace Primary Care			Internal Medicine
Brian Berelowitz, MD			Endocrinology
Nevada Orthopedic & Spine Center			Orthopedic Surgery

*List provided monthly

May Health and Wellness Classes

The Culinary Health Fund offers virtual as well as in-person wellness classes at our health centers.

A referral is not needed for any of our classes, but patients are more likely to attend when their doctor refers them and follows up on their progress. This month's classes include the following topics:

- **Diabetes 1** – Learn about diabetes, how to measure your blood sugar and tips to live healthier.
- **Diabetes 2** – Find out how to make smart changes to your diet.
- **Healthy Cooking** – How to cook delicious, healthy meals and healthy substitutes for your favorite meals.
- **High Blood Pressure** – Learn how high blood pressure can affect your life.
- **Breastfeeding** – Learn what to expect when breastfeeding.
- **Kidney Smart** – Learn how kidneys work and how your diet, medicine and habits affect your kidneys
- **Medicare Basics** – Who is eligible for Medicare, when to enroll, the average cost and how to avoid paying penalties.

You can conveniently view class dates and times on the website at: <https://www.culinaryhealthfund.org/healthy-living-class-schedule/>

Check Out Our Website

Go to www.culinaryhealthfund.org to find Culinary processes; review and print forms and documents; and view archived provider notifications.

Pharmacy Updates

Discontinuation of Bydureon BCise and Byetta

Drug manufacturer AstraZeneca (AZ) recently notified the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that it discontinued Bydureon BCise and Byetta. Bydureon BCise was discontinued on Oct. 28, 2024, and Byetta was discontinued on Oct. 25, 2024.

What this means for you:

We've identified preferred covered alternatives to help ensure your patients with Culinary Health Fund benefits continue to have access to a covered glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) receptor agonist product to treat diabetes. The following are preferred covered alternatives: Mounjaro, Ozempic, Rybelsus, Trulicity and liraglutide (Victoza authorized generic).

HIV PrEP coverage – Updated January 1, 2025

The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury (the Departments) issued a new FAQ about the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Part 68 (FAQ 68) on Oct. 21, 2024. This FAQ clarifies the Departments' expectations regarding coverage of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) without cost-sharing, in connection with the latest United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) PrEP recommendation issued on Aug. 22, 2023.

The new guidance clarifies the requirement of covering specific HIV PrEP treatments, listing the two oral medications (generic Truvada and Descovy) and one injectable (Apretude), as well as prohibiting the use of medical management strategies.

In response to the Departments' FAQs, Apretude and Descovy were added to the Optum Rx Premium Formulary for Culinary Health Fund participants, effective January 1, 2025.

Additionally, the Health Care Reform (HCR) Preventive Medication List was updated to allow these medications to pay at \$0 cost-share for PrEP. The coverage list removed the step therapy requirement through generic Truvada for Descovy and Apretude, allowing these PrEP medications to pay at \$0 cost-share without a copay waiver requirement.

Biosimilar Formulary Updates

Beginning July 1, 2025, Optum Rx will prefer **Wezlana**, the FDA-approved biosimilar to Stelara, on the Premium Formulary. Wezlana has no clinical differences compared to Stelara, but offers several positive attributes:

- First interchangeable Stelara (ustekinumab) biosimilar to market.
- Available in all the same drug formulations and strengths as Stelara.
- Latex-free.
- FDA-approved for all of the same indications as Stelara.

Reminder: As of January 1, 2025, Optum Rx preferred the FDA-approved adalimumab biosimilar **Amjevita by Nuvaila** on the Premium Formulary. Participants currently utilizing Humira will need to transition to the preferred biosimilar or their next refill may be delayed. A new script for Amjevita by Nuvaila will need to be submitted to their specialty pharmacy.



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