

Navigating Drug Shortages

Taking your medications as prescribed is crucial to your overall health. That's why making sure you have the medications you need when you need them is a priority. Drug shortages may occur in the United States due to several factors, which may affect or delay the availability of medications. We at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) are navigating this challenging road with you. We're offering these tools and resources to help.

What You Can Do

1. DO check with other participating retail pharmacies in your area. Here's how:

- Log into My Account. Click on "Coverage" and then "Drug & Pharmacy Resources." In the Drug & Pharmacy Tools section, select "Find a Pharmacy."
- Use the tool to find a CareFirst participating pharmacy or a new one. Select "Retail Pharmacy" to search for options near your preferred ZIP code.
- Make sure the pharmacy is in-network. Check the drop-down menu under "Network." Then, ask your provider to send your prescription directly to your retail pharmacy of choice or take the script there yourself.

2. DO ask your pharmacy to do an inventory search of other pharmacies within the chain (CVS, Walgreens, etc.) to find a pharmacy with stock. CareFirst Pharmacy Services can also help by contacting two pharmacies to see if the medication is available. To learn more, call the Pharmacy number on the back of your CareFirst member ID card.

Note: Depending on the medication, pharmacies may not be able to provide supply information over the phone, so visiting in person may be required.

3. DO request refills in advance to allow the pharmacy time to order inventory.

4. DO ask if mail order is an option for your prescription and request to switch if available.

CVS Caremark mail order may be able to provide a 90-day supply of a medication via mail order (vs. retail 30-day supply), saving you time and worry in not having to search for the medication every 30 days.

- Log into My Account and click "Coverage" then "Drug & Pharmacy Resources."
- Scroll down to "Mail Order," and click "Request a New Mail Order Prescription."
- Enter your prescription details, and we will contact your doctor to request up to a 90-day supply of your medication.

Note: Mail order requires a new prescription, which can take up to 10 days to obtain. A mail script is for a 90-day supply.

5. DO advocate for yourself. Be an active partner in your health care.

- Make a list of your current prescriptions and dosages. Log into My Account and click "Coverage" then "Drug & Pharmacy Resources."
- Scroll down to "Drug Resources" and click on "My Drug Home" to view your current prescriptions and recent orders.
- If you are unable to find your prescription medication at a local pharmacy, call your doctor or pharmacist and explain the challenges you are having. Review your medications together and discuss your options, including possible alternatives to the medication you have been prescribed.

What *Not* to Do

DO **NOT** stop taking your medication or adjust the dosage without consulting with your doctor or provider. Doing so may have a negative impact on your treatment.

About Drug Shortages

Drug shortages have been in the news quite a bit lately. Shortages can happen for a variety of reasons, including one or more of the following:

- Increased consumer demand
- Limited manufacturers for a specific medication
- Labor shortages
- Shortages of raw ingredients needed to produce the medication
- Quality issues
- Regulatory delays
- Supplier delays

“Off-label” use, i.e., prescribing a drug for particular use outside U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines, can also be a factor. Shortages may also result in higher costs for alternatives as demand increases for those medications.

Shortages can occur for a limited time or for several months. As such, it is difficult to gauge how long it may be until a medication is once again more conveniently available.

FDA Resource

The FDA tracks drug shortages at the national level. You may visit the [FDA Drug Shortages](#) website to see if your medication is on the list. Enter the first three letters of the “Generic Name or Active Ingredient” into the search box and click “Submit.” The FDA database is updated daily and includes information about current drugs in shortage, resolved shortages, discontinuations of specific drug products, corresponding therapeutic categories, resource information, and relevant links.

Our Commitment to You

CareFirst is committed to providing access to consistent, safe, high-quality health care to the patients and communities we serve. We work together with CVS, our Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM), and are in communication with the FDA to monitor shortages. We receive current drug shortage reports regularly, and collaborate with clients, members, and providers on mitigation strategies.

Need assistance? Call the Pharmacy number on the back of your CareFirst member ID card.

Notice of Nondiscrimination and Availability of Language Assistance Services

(UPDATED 8/5/19)

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc., CareFirst Diversified Benefits and all of their corporate affiliates (CareFirst) comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. CareFirst does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

CareFirst:

- Provides free aid 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, please call 855-258-6518.

If you believe CareFirst 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 our CareFirst Civil Rights Coordinator by mail, fax or email. If you need help filing a grievance, our CareFirst Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

To file a grievance regarding a violation of federal civil rights, please contact the Civil Rights Coordinator as indicated below. Please do not send payments, claims issues, or other documentation to this office.

Civil Rights Coordinator, Corporate Office of Civil Rights

Mailing Address P.O. Box 8894
 Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Email Address civilrightscoordinator@carefirst.com

Telephone Number 410-528-7820

Fax Number 410-505-2011

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
800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

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

Foreign Language Assistance

Attention (English): This notice contains information about your insurance coverage. It may contain key dates and you may need to take action by certain deadlines. You have the right to get this information and assistance in your language at no cost. Members should call the phone number on the back of their member identification card. All others may call 855-258-6518 and wait through the dialogue until prompted to push 0. When an agent answers, state the language you need and you will be connected to an interpreter.

አማርኛ (Amharic) ማሳሰቢያ፡- ይህ ማስታወቂያ ስለ መደን ሽፋንዎ መረጃ ይዟል። ከተወሰኑ ቀን-ገደቦች በፊት ሊፈጽሟቸው የሚገቡ ነገሮች ሊኖሩ ስለሚችሉ እነዚህን ወሳኝ ቀናት ሊይዝ ይችላሉ። ይኸን መረጃ የማግኘት እና ያለምንም ክፍያ በቋንቋዎ እገዛ የማግኘት መብት አለዎት። አባል ከሆኑ ከመታወቂያ ካርድዎ በስተጀርባ ላይ ወደተጠቀሰው የስልክ ቁጥር መደወል ይችላሉ። አባል ካልሆኑ ደግሞ ወደ ስልክ ቁጥር 855-258-6518 ደውለው 0ን እንዲጫኑ እስኪነገርዎ ድረስ ንግግሩን መጠበቅ አለብዎ። አንድ ወኪል መልስ ሲሰጥዎ፣ የሚፈልጉትን ቋንቋ ያሳውቁ፣ ከዚያም ከተርጓሚ ጋር ይገናኛሉ።

Èdè Yorùbá (Yoruba) Ìtẹ̀tílẹ̀kọ: Àkíyèsí yìí ní iwífún nípa isẹ̀ adójútòfò rẹ̀. Ó le ní àwọn déèti pátó o sì le ní láti gbé igbésẹ̀ ní àwọn ojò gbèdèké kan. O ni ètò láti gba iwífún yí àti irànlówó ní èdè rẹ̀ lófèé. Àwọn omo-egbé gbòdò pe nóm̀bà fòdùn tò wà léyìn kààdi idánimò wọn. Àwọn mírán le pe 855-258-6518 kí o sì dúró nípasẹ̀ ijiròrò tí tí a ó fí sọ̀ fún ọ̀ láti tẹ̀ 0. Nígbà tí a sọ̀jú kan bá dáhùn, sọ̀ èdè tí o fẹ̀ a ó sì so ọ̀ pò mò ògbufò kan.

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) Chú ý: Thông báo này chứa thông tin về phạm vi bảo hiểm của quý vị. Thông báo có thể chứa những ngày quan trọng và quý vị cần hành động trước một số thời hạn nhất định. Quý vị có quyền nhận được thông tin này và hỗ trợ bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị hoàn toàn miễn phí. Các thành viên nên gọi số điện thoại ở mặt sau của thẻ nhận dạng. Tất cả những người khác có thể gọi số 855-258-6518 và chờ hết cuộc đối thoại cho đến khi được nhắc nhấn phím 0. Khi một tổng đài viên trả lời, hãy nêu rõ ngôn ngữ quý vị cần và quý vị sẽ được kết nối với một thông dịch viên.

Tagalog (Tagalog) Atensyon: Ang abisong ito ay naglalaman ng impormasyon tungkol sa nasasaklawan ng iyong insurance. Maaari itong maglaman ng mga pinakamahalagang petsa at maaaring kailangan mong gumawa ng aksyon ayon sa ilang deadline. May karapatan ka na makuha ang impormasyong ito at tulong sa iyong sariling wika nang walang gastos. Dapat tawagan ng mga Miyembro ang numero ng telepono na nasa likuran ng kanilang identification card. Ang lahat ng iba ay maaaring tumawag sa 855-258-6518 at maghintay hanggang sa dulo ng diyalogo hanggang sa diktahan na pindutin ang 0. Kapag sumagot ang ahente, sabihin ang wika na kailangan mo at ikokonekta ka sa isang interpreter.

Español (Spanish) Atención: Este aviso contiene información sobre su cobertura de seguro. Es posible que incluya fechas clave y que usted tenga que realizar alguna acción antes de ciertas fechas límite. Usted tiene derecho a obtener esta información y asistencia en su idioma sin ningún costo. Los asegurados deben llamar al número de teléfono que se encuentra al reverso de su tarjeta de identificación. Todos los demás pueden llamar al 855-258-6518 y esperar la grabación hasta que se les indique que deben presionar 0. Cuando un agente de seguros responda, indique el idioma que necesita y se le comunicará con un intérprete.

Русский (Russian) Внимание! Настоящее уведомление содержит информацию о вашем страховом обеспечении. В нем могут указываться важные даты, и от вас может потребоваться выполнить некоторые действия до определенного срока. Вы имеете право бесплатно получить настоящие сведения и сопутствующую помощь на удобном вам языке. Участникам следует обращаться по номеру телефона, указанному на тыльной стороне идентификационной карты. Все прочие абоненты могут звонить по номеру 855-258-6518 и ожидать, пока в голосовом меню не будет предложено нажать цифру «0». При ответе агента укажите желаемый язык общения, и вас свяжут с переводчиком.

हिन्दी (Hindi) ध्यान दें: इस सूचना में आपकी बीमा कवरेज के बारे में जानकारी दी गई है। हो सकता है कि इसमें मुख्य तिथियों का उल्लेख हो और आपके लिए किसी नियत समय-सीमा के भीतर काम करना ज़रूरी हो। आपको यह जानकारी और संबंधित सहायता अपनी भाषा में निःशुल्क पाने का अधिकार है। सदस्यों को अपने पहचान पत्र के पीछे दिए गए फ़ोन नंबर पर कॉल करना चाहिए। अन्य सभी लोग 855-258-6518 पर कॉल कर सकते हैं और जब तक 0 दबाने के लिए न कहा जाए, तब तक संवाद की प्रतीक्षा करें। जब कोई एजेंट उत्तर दे तो उसे अपनी भाषा बताएँ और आपको व्याख्याकार से कनेक्ट कर दिया जाएगा।

Bàsɔ̀-wùdù (Bassa) Tò Ìdùù Cáo! Bǎ̀ nǎ̀ kẹ́ bá nyo bẹ́ ké m̄ gbo kpá bó nì fùà-fùá-tiǎ̀ nyɛɛ jẹ́ dyí. Bǎ̀ nǎ̀ kẹ́ bédé wé jéé bẹ́ bẹ́ m̄ ké dẹ́ wa m̄ m̄ ké nyuɛɛ nyu hwè bẹ́ wé bẹ́a ké zi. ɔ̀ m̄ nì kpé bẹ́ m̄ ké bǎ̀ nǎ̀ kẹ́ kẹ́ gbo-kpá-kpá m̄ m̄óɛ dyé dé nì bídí-wùdù mú bẹ́ m̄ ké se wídí dọ́ péé. Kpoò nyo bẹ́ m̄ dǎ́ fúùn-nòbà nǎ̀ dé waà I.D. káàò dẹ́n nyɛ. Nyo tòò séín m̄ dǎ́ nòbà nǎ̀ kẹ́: 855-258-6518, ké m̄ m̄ fò tee bẹ́ wa kée m̄ gbo cẹ́ bẹ́ m̄ ké nòbà m̄à 0 kẹ́ dyi pàdàin hwè. ɔ̀ jù ké nyo dọ́ dyi m̄ gǎ́ jǎ̀n, po wuđu m̄ m̄ó pòe dyie, ké nyo dọ́ mu bó nìin bẹ́ ɔ̀ ké nì wuđu mú zà.

বাংলা (Bengali) লক্ষ্য করুন: এই নোটিশে আপনার বিমা কভারেজ সম্পর্কে তথ্য রয়েছে। এর মধ্যে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তারিখ থাকতে পারে এবং নির্দিষ্ট তারিখের মধ্যে আপনাকে পদক্ষেপ নিতে হতে পারে। বিনা খরচে নিজের ভাষায় এই তথ্য পাওয়ার এবং সহায়তা পাওয়ার অধিকার আপনার আছে। সদস্যদেরকে তাদের পরিচয়পত্রের পিছনে থাকা নম্বরে কল করতে হবে। অন্যেরা 855-258-6518 নম্বরে কল করে 0 টিপতে না বলা পর্যন্ত অপেক্ষা করতে পারেন। যখন কোনো এজেন্ট উত্তর দেবেন তখন আপনার নিজের ভাষার নাম বলুন এবং আপনাকে দোভাষীর সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করা হবে।

اردو (Urdu) توجہ: یہ نوٹس آپ کے انشورینس کوریج سے متعلق معلومات پر مشتمل ہے۔ اس میں کلیدی تاریخیں ہو سکتی ہیں اور ممکن ہے کہ آپ کو مخصوص آخری تاریخوں تک کارروائی کرنے کی ضرورت پڑے۔ آپ کے پاس یہ معلومات حاصل کرنے اور بغیر خرچہ کیے اپنی زبان میں مدد حاصل کرنے کا حق ہے۔ ممبران کو اپنے شناختی کارڈ کی پشت پر موجود فون نمبر پر کال کرنی چاہیے۔ سبھی دیگر لوگ 855-258-6518 پر کال کر سکتے ہیں اور 0 دبانے کو کہے جانے تک انتظار کریں۔ ایجنٹ کے جواب دینے پر اپنی مطلوبہ زبان بتائیں اور مترجم سے مربوط ہو جائیں گے۔

فارسی (Farsi) توجه: این اعلامیه حاوی اطلاعاتی درباره پوشش بیمه شما است. ممکن است حاوی تاریخ های مهمی باشد و لازم است تا تاریخ مقرر شده خاصی اقدام کنید. شما از این حق برخوردار هستید تا این اطلاعات و راهنمایی را به صورت رایگان به زبان خودتان دریافت کنید. اعضا باید با شماره درج شده در پشت کارت شناسایی شان تماس بگیرند. سایر افراد می توانند با شماره 855-258-6518 تماس بگیرند و منتظر بمانند تا از آنها خواسته شود عدد 0 را فشار دهند. بعد از پاسخگویی توسط یکی از اپراتورها، زبان مورد نیاز را تنظیم کنید تا به مترجم مربوطه وصل شوید.

اللغة العربية (Arabic) تنبيه: يحتوي هذا الإخطار على معلومات بشأن تغطيتك التأمينية، وقد يحتوي على تواريخ مهمة، وقد تحتاج إلى اتخاذ إجراءات بحلول مواعيد نهائية محددة. يحق لك الحصول على هذه المساعدة والمعلومات بلغتك بدون تحمل أي تكلفة. ينبغي على الأعضاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف المذكور في ظهر بطاقة تعريف الهوية الخاصة بهم. يمكن للأخريين الاتصال على الرقم 855-258-6518 والانتظار خلال المحادثة حتى يطلب منهم الضغط على رقم 0. عند إجابة أحد الوكلاء، اذكر اللغة التي تحتاج إلى التواصل بها وسيتم توصيلك بأحد المترجمين الفوريين.

中文繁体 (Traditional Chinese) 注意：本聲明包含關於您的保險給付相關資訊。本聲明可能包含重要日期及您在特定期限之前需要採取的行動。您有權利免費獲得這份資訊，以及透過您的母語提供的協助服務。會員請撥打印在身分識別卡背面的電話號碼。其他所有人士可撥打電話 855-258-6518，並等候直到對話提示按下按鍵 0。當接線生回答時，請說出您需要使用的語言，這樣您就能與口譯人員連線。

Igbo (Igbo) Nrubama: Okwa a nwere ozi gbasara mkpuchi nchekwa onwe gi. O nwere ike inwe ubochi ndi di mkpa, i nwere ike ime ihe tupu ufodu ubochi njedebe. I nwere ikike inweta ozi na enyemaka a n'asusu gi na akwughị ugwo o bula. Ndi otu kwesiri ikpo akara ekwentị di n'azu nke kaadi njirimara ha. Ndi ozọ niile nwere ike ikpo 855-258-6518 wee chere ububo ahụ ruo mgbe amanyere ipi 0. Mgbe onye nnochite anya zara, kwuo asusu i choro, a ga-ejikọ gi na onye okowa okwu.

Deutsch (German) Achtung: Diese Mitteilung enthält Informationen über Ihren Versicherungsschutz. Sie kann wichtige Termine beinhalten, und Sie müssen gegebenenfalls innerhalb bestimmter Fristen reagieren. Sie haben das Recht, diese Informationen und weitere Unterstützung kostenlos in Ihrer Sprache zu erhalten. Als Mitglied verwenden Sie bitte die auf der Rückseite Ihrer Karte angegebene Telefonnummer. Alle anderen Personen rufen bitte die Nummer 855-258-6518 an und warten auf die Aufforderung, die Taste 0 zu drücken. Geben Sie dem Mitarbeiter die gewünschte Sprache an, damit er Sie mit einem Dolmetscher verbinden kann.

Français (French) Attention: cet avis contient des informations sur votre couverture d'assurance. Des dates importantes peuvent y figurer et il se peut que vous deviez entreprendre des démarches avant certaines échéances. Vous avez le droit d'obtenir gratuitement ces informations et de l'aide dans votre langue. Les membres doivent appeler le numéro de téléphone figurant à l'arrière de leur carte d'identification. Tous les autres peuvent appeler le 855-258-6518 et, après avoir écouté le message, appuyer sur le 0 lorsqu'ils seront invités à le faire. Lorsqu'un(e) employé(e) répondra, indiquez la langue que vous souhaitez et vous serez mis(e) en relation avec un interprète.

한국어(Korean) 주의: 이 통지서에는 보험 커버리지에 대한 정보가 포함되어 있습니다. 주요 날짜 및 조치를 취해야 하는 특정 기한이 포함될 수 있습니다. 귀하에게는 사용 언어로 해당 정보와 지원을 받을 권리가 있습니다. 회원이신 경우 ID 카드의 뒷면에 있는 전화번호로 연락해 주십시오. 회원이 아닌 경우 855-258-6518 번으로 전화하여 0을 누르라는 메시지가 들릴 때까지 기다리십시오. 연결된 상담원에게 필요한 언어를 말씀하시면 통역 서비스에 연결해 드립니다.

Diné Bizaad (Navajo) Ge': Díí bee íł hane'ígíí bii' dahólq bee éédahózin béeso ách'áq̄h naanil ník'ist'i'ígíí bá. Bii' dahólq̄q̄ doo íiyisíí yoolkáálígíí dóó t'áádoó le'é ádadoolyííllígíí da yókeedgo t'áá doo bee e'e'aahí ájiil'ííh. Bee ná ahóót'i' díí bee íł hane' dóó níká'ádoowot' t'áá nínizaad bee t'áá jiik'é. Atah danilínígíí béesh bee hane'é bee wólta'ígíí nitł'izgo bee nee hódolzinígíí bikéédéé' bikáá' bich'í' hodoonihjí'. Aadóó náánáta' éi koji' dahódoonih 855-258-6518 dóó yii diilts'íłt' yaltí'ígíí t'áá níléijí áádóó éi bikéé'dóó naasbaas bił adidiilchił. Áká'ánidaalwó'ígíí neidiitáq̄go, saad bee yánilt'i'ígíí yii diikił dóó ata' halne'é lá níká'ádoowot'.