

The logo features the letters 'UT' in a white, stylized font inside a dark blue square, followed by the word 'Benefits' in a dark blue serif font.

**UT** Benefits

The University of Texas System

# EMPLOYEE

Annual Enrollment & Resource Guide

FOR INSURANCE, RETIREMENT AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

JULY 2023

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

## UT SELECT™ Prescription Drug Plan

REVIEW

Your prescription drug benefits are included as part of your UT SELECT medical plan and the prescription plan is administered by Express Scripts, Inc.

There are no plan design changes to the UT SELECT Prescription plan this plan year. Deductibles and copayment amounts will remain the same for the new plan year beginning September 1, 2023.

We want to remind members there are a number of ways to help you maximize your prescription benefit and save you money. These options include filling 90-day maintenance medications via home delivery and at certain retail locations and substituting generic medications when available.

### REMINDER: MORE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR FILLING YOUR 90-DAY MAINTENANCE MEDICATIONS

As part of your UT SELECT prescription benefit, you have access to a more convenient and money-saving feature for your maintenance medications (those drugs you take regularly for ongoing conditions). Through your plan, you could pay less when you fill a 90-day supply of your maintenance medications at a participating pharmacy (Express Scripts home delivery, Walgreens, and The University of Texas pharmacies) than you would pay for three 30-day supplies at a non-preferred retail pharmacy.

There are Two Ways to Save on Your Maintenance Prescriptions

1. For savings and convenience, take advantage of home delivery from the Express Scripts Pharmacy. Get 90-day supplies of your medications delivered direct to you, safely and securely, with free standard shipping.

Log in at [express-scripts.com/ut](https://express-scripts.com/ut) or call the number listed on the back of your member ID card to learn how to get started with home delivery. Express Scripts can contact your doctor to have a new 90-day prescription sent right to you.

2. Or, you can fill your maintenance prescriptions at a nearby Walgreens or UT pharmacy. The pharmacist will contact your doctor to get a new 90-day prescription or will transfer your current 90-day prescriptions.

Your copayment for your 90-day supply will be the same whether you fill your prescriptions through Express Scripts home delivery or at a participating Walgreens or UT pharmacy.

If you have questions about the 90-day maintenance medication benefit or want assistance to help you get started, call Express Scripts at (800) 818-0155 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### REMINDER: MID-YEAR FORMULARY CHANGES

While mid-year formulary changes don't occur frequently, it is possible that a medication can change co-pay tiers during the plan year. For more information on what your cost will be please use the member website at [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) where you can run drug coverage checks to see your cost.

### WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIALTY MEDICATIONS

If you or a family member is diagnosed with a chronic condition, you may be prescribed a drug classified as a specialty medication. Conditions requiring treatment with specialty medications are hemophilia, multiple sclerosis, cancer and many others.

Your UT SELECT plan covers specialty medications through Express Scripts' specialty pharmacy Accredo. Accredo's specialty-trained pharmacists and nurses work with your doctors to provide you with hyper-focused care and support throughout your treatment, which includes:

- Clinical support around the clock with specialty-trained pharmacists and nurses available 24/7 to answer any questions,
- Nurses to provide one-on-one support to help you administer your medication;
- And assistance to get your medication and supplies delivered to you with free shipping at no additional charge.

### UT HEALTH INSTITUTIONS SPECIALTY PHARMACIES

Many UT Health institutions have a specialty pharmacy onsite. If you've been prescribed a specialty medication, ask your UT pharmacy today if you're able to fill your specialty prescription there for added convenience and support.

## UT SELECT™ Prescription Drug Plan, *continued*

REVIEW

REVIEW

### UPDATE: CERTAIN WEIGHT LOSS MANAGEMENT DRUGS NOT COVERED

The UT SELECT and UT CARE prescription drug plans, both administered by Express Scripts, have covered Wegovy® and Saxenda® for weight loss and weight loss management. The cost has risen under the plan from approximately \$1.5 million per month 18 months ago to over \$5 million per month as of May 2023. There are approximately 3,100 plan members using these medications.

Cost analysis on these medications indicates they are currently the costliest prescription drugs paid for by the plan on an annual basis, even more costly than medications for complex conditions like cancer. The UT System Office of Employee Benefits has engaged Express Scripts, the pharmacy manufacturers of these medications, as well as a System-Wide committee of UT clinical experts. Extensive time has been dedicated to monitoring the cost, developing solutions to lower cost, and suggesting plan design options to reduce cost. We have also monitored compliance with these medications under the plans and see less than 46% of the population using these medications, remain on the medication. This equates to a significant cost to the plan with less than desirable compliance with medication and treatment protocols. At the same time, new members are beginning the medication each month.

We recognize some patients are benefiting from using these medications and staying compliant with their weight loss journey. However, the plan is not seeing the expected reduction in cost for other conditions a member may be attempting to control as a result of using Wegovy or Saxenda. These savings are not being realized due to the excessive cost the drug manufacturer charges for the weight loss medication.

Until compliance for these medications increases and drug manufacturers are willing to adjust pricing, these weight loss medications will no longer be covered by the UT SELECT and UT CARE plans effective September 1, 2023.

Continuing to dispense these medications would add an additional \$73 million dollars a year to the prescription plans, an amount that is unsustainable due to the current rate of prescription drug expenditures. These costs would equate to a need to increase premiums for the entire UT SELECT and UT CARE population an additional 2.5-3%.

Members currently utilizing either Wegovy or Saxenda should consider reaching out to the manufacturers of these medications and inquire if there are prescription discount opportunities available.