

# Statin use in cardiovascular patients

Approximately 81 million American adults are living with a form of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Trials such as JUPITER (Justification for the Use of Statins in primary Prevention: an Intervention Trial Evaluating Rosuvastatin), Treating to New Targets (TNT), and ASTEROID (A Study To Evaluate the effect of Rosuvastatin On Intravascular ultrasound-Derived coronary atheroma burden) have demonstrated that patients taking a statin have a lower incidence of heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular complications.

The American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) guidelines state that **statins of moderate or high intensity are recommended** for adults with established clinical ASCVD.

Highmark's Medicare Formularies cover a variety of statins. Moderate and high-intensity statins are even available on the Preferred Generics tier and are the lowest cost medications offered. During the Initial Coverage Phase, Preferred Generics can be as low as a \$0 copay when filled at a Preferred Pharmacy for members with the Preferred Pharmacy benefit. Non-preferred generics and brands vary in cost depending on their tier.

Commonly prescribed medications that are covered on Highmark Medicare Formularies are provided below. Please refer to individual formularies located at [www.highmarkblueshield.com/medicare](http://www.highmarkblueshield.com/medicare) for more information.

	<b>MODERATE-INTENSITY</b> Daily Dose Lowers LDL-C 30% to 50%	<b>HIGH-INTENSITY</b> Daily Dose Lowers LDL-C >50%
<b>Preferred Generics</b>	Atorvastatin 10mg, 20mg Lovastatin 40mg Pravastatin 40mg, 80mg Simvastatin 20mg, 40mg	Atorvastatin 40mg, 80mg Simvastatin 80mg
<b>Non-Preferred Generics</b>	Rosuvastatin 5mg, 10mg	Rosuvastatin 20mg, 40mg
<b>Non-Preferred Brands</b>	Livalo* 2mg, 4mg	

While the cholesterol medication Rosuvastatin is a non-preferred generic on all Highmark's Medicare Formularies, it has been down-tiered for 2019. Previously, members paid up to a Tier 3 copay while in the Initial Coverage Phase.

Beginning in 2019, all strengths of Rosuvastatin will be covered at a Tier 2 copay during the Initial Coverage Phase.



\*Livalo is a Non-Formulary drug on Highmark's Medicare Performance Formulary. Additional statin medications may also be covered depending on the member's individual formulary

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