

Medicare Formulary Tiering Change



What is Changing?

- 45 HIV medications will move to the specialty tier for Kaiser Permanente Medicare members on January 1, 2026.
- Medicare Members who use these specific drugs will see their cost share change from a \$15 copay to 20% coinsurance, capped at \$100 per prescription.

Why is this change being made?

- KP has made this change to the Part D formulary to align with industry standard practice for specialty-tier with these high-cost medications.

CMS Specialty Tier Threshold Limits Over Time

Years	Threshold
2007	\$500
2008-2016	\$600
2017-2021	\$670
2022-2023	\$830
2024-2026	\$950

- The specialty-tier structure was created in 2007 by CMS to help Medicare plans manage very high drug costs.
- Formulary change aligns with CMS guidance and long-standing industry standards for high-cost drugs.
- CMS regulations (42 CFR §423.104) allow plans to place high-cost drugs on a specialty tier within the defined threshold (\$950+ per month).

How we are supporting members

Member Notification & Education

- All impacted Medicare members received a mailed notice and may access the formulary at kp.org/formulary

Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (MPPP)

- Allows members to spread prescription costs over the plan year.
- Reduces upfront financial burden and can be requested at the pharmacy counter
- Easy opt-in online: [Medicare Prescription Payment Plan Request](#) | [Kaiser Permanente](#)

Kaiser Permanente Medical Financial Assistance (MFA)

- Provides financial help for qualifying members based on income.
- Includes interest-free payment plans for medical expenses.
- Applies to services provided at Kaiser Permanente facilities.

Annual Part D Out-of-Pocket Maximum

- Members are protected by a **\$2,100 annual cap** on Part D costs in 2026.
- Ensures predictable and limited annual spending.



How we are supporting members

AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)

- Offers free FDA-approved HIV medications for eligible members.
- Provides premium assistance for Medicare Part C and D plans.

California ADAP

Enrollment available through certified ADAP [sites](#) or the ADAP call center at (844) 421-7050, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (excluding holidays).

HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP) *Hawaii's ADAP*

Enrollment available through [Harm Reduction Services Branch](#) or call (808) 733-9010.

CAREAssist *Oregon State's ADAP*

Enrollment available through [CareAssist](#) or (971)-673-0144.

Early Intervention Program (EIP) *Washington State's ADAP*

Enrollment available through [Secure Access Washington \(SAW\) portal](#), (877) 376-9316, or email ask.EIP@doh.wa.gov.



December 3, 2025

Sent via email: rey.guillen@sfgov.org

Rey Guillen, Executive Director
San Francisco Health Service System
1145 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Executive Director Guillen,

As we shared with the San Francisco Health Service Board on November 11, 2025, Kaiser Permanente will be updating our group Medicare Advantage formulary effective January 1, 2026. We regularly review our Medicare formulary to stay aligned with federal requirements, reflect current market practices, and to ensure support for the long-term sustainability of our health plans. While these annual updates are common across the industry and often occur without prior notice, we wanted to proactively let you know about this change.

Beginning in 2026, HIV medications with a negotiated monthly cost above \$950 will move to Tier 5 (Specialty). For SFHSS members, the specialty tier benefit means a 20% coinsurance for a 30-day supply, capped at \$100. In other words, members will not pay more than \$100 per month for their HIV medication.

Under the 2026 Medicare Part D design, the annual out-of-pocket maximum for Part D drugs will be \$2,100. Members also have the option to enroll in the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, which allows pharmacy costs to be spread evenly across the year.

Based on utilization data from January through September 2025, a total of 86 SFHSS Medicare members will be impacted by this Tiering Change.

Of these, 16 members are currently using more than one of the impacted medications. Impacted members received a direct mail notification in November with details on their options and available resources. In addition, Kaiser Permanente care teams are available to work with members and their providers to discuss treatment and financial assistance options.

For your convenience, we've attached the full list of medications moving to the specialty tier, including strength, formulation, brand/chemical names, and both current and future tier placement.

We hope this overview is helpful, and we're happy to provide any additional information or clarification you may need.

Warm regards,



Denise Rodriguez
Director, Public Sector North
Strategic Accounts, Kaiser Permanente
California License: OB32989

Attachment: 2026 Tiering Change Impacted Drugs

CC: Rin Coleridge, San Francisco Health Service System
Patrick Chang, San Francisco Health Service System

Mike Clarke, Aon
Chris Riffel, Aon

Brand Name	Generic Name	Product Description	Manufacturer	Therapeutic Category	Therapeutic Class	HIC3 Description	Existing Tier Level	New Tier
TRIUMEQ	ABACAVIR-DOLUTEGRAVIR-LAMIVUDINE	TRIUMEQ TABS 600-50-300 MG	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL-NRTIS AND INTEGRASE INHIBITORS COMB	2	5
REYATAZ	ATAZANAVIR SULFATE	REYATAZ PACK 50 MG	B-M SQUIBB U.S. (PRIMARY CARE)	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, PROTEASE INHIBITORS	2	5
EVOTAZ	ATAZANAVIR SULFATE-COBICISTAT	EVOTAZ TABS 300-150 MG	B-M SQUIBB U.S. (PRIMARY CARE)	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, PROTEASE INHIBITORS	2	5
MARAVIROC	MARAVIROC	MARAVIROC TABS 150 MG	CAMBER PHARMACEUTICALS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, CCR5 CO-RECEPTOR ANTAG.	2	5
MARAVIROC	MARAVIROC	MARAVIROC TABS 300 MG	CAMBER PHARMACEUTICALS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, CCR5 CO-RECEPTOR ANTAG.	2	5
BIKTARVY	BICTEGRAVIR-EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE FUMARATE	BIKTARVY TABS 50-200-25 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARV-NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE RTI,INTEGRASE INHIBITORS	2	5
BIKTARVY	BICTEGRAVIR-EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE FUMARATE	BIKTARVY TABS 30-120-15 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARV-NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE RTI,INTEGRASE INHIBITORS	2	5
PREZISTA	DARUNAVIR	PREZISTA TABS 150 MG	JANSSEN PRODUCTS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NON-PEPTIDIC PROTEASE INHIB	2	5
EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR	EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR TABS 600-300-300 MG	LAURUS LABS PRIVATE LIMITED	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARTV NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,NON-NUCLEOSIDE RTI COMB	2	5
PREZISTA	DARUNAVIR	PREZISTA SUSP 100 MG/ML	JANSSEN PRODUCTS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NON-PEPTIDIC PROTEASE INHIB	2	5
EMTRICITAB-RILPIVIR-TENOFOV DF	EMTRICITABINE-RILPIVIRINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	EMTRICITAB-RILPIVIR-TENOFOV DF TABS 200-25-300 MG	MYLAN	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARTV NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,NON-NUCLEOSIDE RTI COMB	2	5
PREZCOBIX	DARUNAVIR-COBICISTAT	PREZCOBIX TABS 800-150 MG	JANSSEN PRODUCTS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NON-PEPTIDIC PROTEASE INHIB	2	5
SYMITUZA	DARUNAVIR-COBICISTAT-EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE	SYMITUZA TABS 800-150-200-10 MG	JANSSEN PRODUCTS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL-NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,PROTEASE INH.	2	5
TIVICAY	DOLUTEGRAVIR SODIUM	TIVICAY TABS 50 MG	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS,HIV-1 INTEGRASE STRAND TRANSFER INHIBTR	2	5
TIVICAY PD	DOLUTEGRAVIR SODIUM	TIVICAY PD TBSO 5 MG	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS,HIV-1 INTEGRASE STRAND TRANSFER INHIBTR	2	5
DOVATO	DOLUTEGRAVIR SODIUM-LAMIVUDINE	DOVATO TABS 50-300 MG	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL-INTEGRASE INHIBITOR AND NRTI COMB.	2	5
JULUCA	DOLUTEGRAVIR SODIUM-RILPIVIRINE HCL	JULUCA TABS 50-25 MG	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL-INTEGRASE INHIBITOR AND NNRTI COMB.	2	5
PIFELTRO	DORAVIRINE	PIFELTRO TABS 100 MG	MERCK SHARP & DOHME	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, NON-NUCLEOSIDE, RTI	2	5
DELSTRIGO	DORAVIRINE-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	DELSTRIGO TABS 100-300-300 MG	MERCK SHARP & DOHME	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARTV NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,NON-NUCLEOSIDE RTI COMB	2	5
SYMFI	EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	SYMFI TABS 600-300-300 MG	VIATRIS SPECIALTY	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARTV NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,NON-NUCLEOSIDE RTI COMB	2	5
GENVOYA	ELVITEGRAVIR-COBICISTAT-EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE	GENVOYA TABS 150-150-200-10 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARV-NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE RTI,INTEGRASE INHIBITORS	2	5
STRIBILD	ELVITEGRAVIR-COBICISTAT-EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR DF	STRIBILD TABS 150-150-200-300 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARV-NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE RTI,INTEGRASE INHIBITORS	2	5
ODEFSEY	EMTRICITABINE-RILPIVIRINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE FUMARATE	ODEFSEY TABS 200-25-25 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARTV NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,NON-NUCLEOSIDE RTI COMB	2	5
DESCOVY	EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE FUMARATE	DESCOVY TABS 200-25 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NUCLEOSIDE-NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG	2	5
DESCOVY	EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR ALAFENAMIDE FUMARATE	DESCOVY TABS 120-15 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NUCLEOSIDE-NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG	2	5
EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR DF	EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	EMTRICITABINE-TENOFOVIR DF TABS 133-200 MG	AMNEAL PHARMACEUTICALS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NUCLEOSIDE-NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG	2	5
RUKOBIA	FOSTEMSAVIR TROMETHAMINE	RUKOBIA TB12 600 MG	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, CD4 ATTACHMENT INHIBITOR	2	5
CIMDUO	LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	CIMDUO TABS 300-300 MG	VIATRIS SPECIALTY	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NUCLEOSIDE-NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG	2	5
SUNLENCA	LENACAPAVIR SODIUM	SUNLENCA TABS 300 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL - CAPSID INHIBITORS	2	5
SUNLENCA	LENACAPAVIR SODIUM	SUNLENCA TBPk 4 x 300 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL - CAPSID INHIBITORS	2	5
SUNLENCA	LENACAPAVIR SODIUM	SUNLENCA TBPk 5 x 300 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIRETROVIRAL - CAPSID INHIBITORS	2	5
EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR	EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	EFAVIRENZ-LAMIVUDINE-TENOFOVIR TABS 400-300-300 MG	LAURUS LABS PRIVATE LIMITED	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ARTV NUCLEOSIDE,NUCLEOTIDE,NON-NUCLEOSIDE RTI COMB	2	5
KALETRA	LOPINAVIR-RITONAVIR	KALETRA SOLN 400-100 MG/5ML	ABBVIE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, PROTEASE INHIBITOR COMB	2	5
SELZENTRY	MARAVIROC	SELZENTRY SOLN 20 MG/ML	VIIV HEALTHCARE	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, CCR5 CO-RECEPTOR ANTAG.	2	5
VIRACEPT	NELFINAVIR MESYLATE	VIRACEPT TABS 250 MG	PFIZER U.S.	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, PROTEASE INHIBITORS	2	5
VIRACEPT	NELFINAVIR MESYLATE	VIRACEPT TABS 625 MG	PFIZER U.S.	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, PROTEASE INHIBITORS	2	5
ISENTRESS	RALTEGRAVIR POTASSIUM	ISENTRESS TABS 400 MG	MERCK SHARP & DOHME	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS,HIV-1 INTEGRASE STRAND TRANSFER INHIBTR	2	5
ISENTRESS	RALTEGRAVIR POTASSIUM	ISENTRESS CHEW 100 MG	MERCK SHARP & DOHME	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS,HIV-1 INTEGRASE STRAND TRANSFER INHIBTR	2	5
ISENTRESS HD	RALTEGRAVIR POTASSIUM	ISENTRESS HD TABS 600 MG	MERCK SHARP & DOHME	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS,HIV-1 INTEGRASE STRAND TRANSFER INHIBTR	2	5
EDURANT	RILPIVIRINE HCL	EDURANT TABS 25 MG	JANSSEN PRODUCTS	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, NON-NUCLEOSIDE, RTI	2	5
VIREAD	TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	VIREAD TABS 250 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG, RTI	2	5
VIREAD	TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	VIREAD TABS 150 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG, RTI	2	5
VIREAD	TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	VIREAD TABS 200 MG	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG, RTI	2	5
VIREAD	TENOFOVIR DISOPROXIL FUMARATE	VIREAD POWD 40 MG/GM	GILEAD SCIENCES	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPECIFIC, NUCLEOTIDE ANALOG, RTI	2	5
APTIVUS	TIPRANAVIR	APTIVUS CAPS 250 MG	BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM	ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS	ANTIVIRALS	ANTIVIRALS, HIV-SPEC, NON-PEPTIDIC PROTEASE INHIB	2	5