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June 16, 2020

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE: A Change to your Prescription Drug Coverage

Dear TRICARE Beneficiary:

On July 29, 2020, VENLAFAXINE HCL ER, a prescription drug(s) you're taking, will no longer be covered by TRICARE in the same way it has in the past. Your doctor will be required to submit a prior authorization (PA) on or after July 29, 2020 or you will have to pay 100% of the cost of the drug(s).

If you are no longer taking the above drug(s), then you don't need to do anything at this time.

If you are taking this drug, what should you do?

1. Review the enclosed information called "Options for You and Your Doctor to Consider."  
*This document provides a list of drugs that are no longer preferred, that are preferred alternatives, and associated cost information.*
2. Discuss this information with your doctor to see which of the following options is best for you:
  - Switch your prescription to a preferred alternative drug, which will cost you less.
  - Talk to your doctor about requesting a prior authorization. If the criteria requirements have been met, your prior authorization may be approved.
  - Continue filling your current prescription without a prior authorization and pay 100% of the cost of the drug.

### Why the Change?

The Defense Health Agency regularly reviews drugs and has determined your drug now requires a prior authorization. A prior authorization is a routine process that ensures requested drugs are safe, cost effective, and medically required.

### Who Should You Contact If You Have Questions?

If you have any questions about your pharmacy benefit or you need help, please visit [express-scripts.com/TRICARE](http://express-scripts.com/TRICARE) or call 877.363.1303.

Sincerely,

Jay Peloquin, PharmD, BCPS  
Director, Clinical Account Management  
Express Scripts

- Download the Express Scripts™ mobile app for free today! Our easy-to-use mobile app puts your TRICARE® prescription benefit in the palm of your hand.
- Follow us on social media! Add MilitaryRx on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for health tips, plan info and updates about your pharmacy benefit.

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## Options for You and Your Doctor to Consider

On July 29, 2020, your doctor will be required to submit a prior authorization (PA) for VENLAFAXINE HCL ER. Any PA approval your drug currently has will no longer apply. Without a new PA you will pay 100% of the drug cost. If the PA is approved, you will pay the applicable cost. Carefully read the information below to understand your options.

### Switch to the alternative drug

	Military Treatment Facility	Home Delivery	Retail Network Pharmacy
	Your cost (up to a 90-day supply)		
<b>Generic Preferred Drugs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venlafaxine ER (Capsules)</li> <li>• Venlafaxine IR (Tablets)</li> </ul>	\$0	\$10	\$39

### Continue taking your current drug if new PA is approved.

Non-Preferred Drug(s) PA Required	Military Treatment Facility	Home Delivery	Retail Network Pharmacy
	Your cost (up to a 90 day supply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venlafaxine HCL ER 37.5mg, 75mg, 150mg, and 225mg (Tablets)</li> </ul>	\$0  Note: May not be available. Contact your Military Treatment Facility to verify they carry the drug.	\$10  OR  100% of the cost of the drug without an approved prior authorization.	\$39  OR  100% of the cost of the drug without an approved prior authorization.  Note: Venlafaxine HCL ER is subject to a limit of 2 fills at retail. After that you need to switch your prescription to Home Delivery or a Military Treatment Facility.

### How to Contact your Military Treatment Facility's Pharmacy

Visit [Tricare.mil/FindDoctor/mtf](https://www.tricare.mil/FindDoctor/mtf) and type in your ZIP Code or Facility/Installation Name. After clicking on the name, the pharmacy's information, including phone number and hours of operation, will be displayed on the far right side of the web page.

### **Prior Authorization (PA)**

Prior authorization (PA) is a routine review process to ensure that the requested drug is safe, cost effective, and medically required. Without an approved PA, you will pay the full cost of the drug through Home Delivery and at Retail Network pharmacies. The drug may not be available at the Military Treatment Facility. The PA remains valid until it expires or a change is made to its criteria requirements by the Department of Defense (DoD) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee.

For drugs that require a PA, ask your doctor to submit the request(s) electronically through a simple process called Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA). The doctor's office can learn more about ePA at <https://providerportal.surescripts.net/ProviderPortal/dod> or [covermymeds.com/epa/express-scripts](https://covermymeds.com/epa/express-scripts) or by calling the Express Scripts doctor line at 866.684.4488 for assistance.

### **More Information**

For more information on TRICARE-covered drugs, any restrictions, and to find forms for prior authorization and medical necessity, visit [express-scripts.com/tricareformulary](https://express-scripts.com/tricareformulary).

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