



RANDALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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Pubertal Suppression Medication Coverage

You may be researching pubertal suppression or have already decided with your provider what form of puberty suppression you hope to use: Lupron or Eligard injections or a Supprelin implant. Sometimes your insurance company will have a “preferred” medication that they cover for this purpose. That does not mean you cannot choose another form. If you choose the other form, insurance might require an additional authorization and/or more expense on your part. Insurance authorizations are usually good for one year. **It will be extremely important for you to let us know if you have changes in your insurance coverage or treatment may be interrupted.**

Legacy Specialty Pharmacy

Once you work with your provider on moving forward with puberty suppression, our Legacy Specialty Pharmacy will do a benefits investigation. We will then let you know if your insurance company covers Lupron/Eligard/Supprelin, and may be able to estimate the cost to you. Usually cost estimates will be determined by the Specialty Pharmacy that your insurance uses to dispense this kind of medication. There are sometimes co-pay cards from the manufacturer and other medication savings cards that decrease the cost to you. The Specialty Pharmacy will be able to provide this information to you.

Medication Information

The medications we use all work efficiently to suppress puberty. Your choice is a matter of preference and authorization by your insurance company. The choices are: an injection every 12 weeks, an injection every 6 months, or an implant left in for up to two years in the upper arm. The implant is very small, less than an inch and as big around as a toothpick. We have an example in our office if you wish to see what it looks like. Most first Lupron and Eligard injection are given in our office. Most primary care providers will agree to give future injections in their office. This is an option if it's more convenient for you. The implant is placed by our pediatric surgeons under mild sedation. You will have follow-up labs (blood draws) in 6-9 weeks after starting treatment to make sure your hormones are suppressed.

If you are using Lupron, you will have to order it every 12 weeks from the specialty pharmacy or order the Eligard every 6 months. It will need to be delivered to our inpatient pharmacy who will transfer it to our office for your appointment. (If it is delivered to your home we can not give it in our clinic). If you are getting your shots in your primary care providers office, you will work with that clinic and specialty pharmacy to coordinate delivery of medication.

Cost Information

The latest cost estimates we have are: Lupron \$10,000 per injection; Eligard \$7,000 and Supprelin \$45,000 per implant; Depending on your insurance benefits, this may result in no cost to you, or a co-pay that would be determined and agreed to by you before it is ever ordered. Final cost may vary widely if going through a specialty pharmacy and then the Emanuel Inpatient Pharmacy. Co-pay assistance programs through the manufacturer are often available to cover the cost the patient is responsible for.

Questions for your insurance company:

1. Do you cover pubertal suppression medications, and if so do you cover for the diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria? (The diagnosis CPT code they might ask you for is F64.9, Gender Dysphoria)
2. What is your preferred medication for pubertal suppression, Lupron, Eligard or Supprelin?
3. What criteria do you base your decision on, i.e., Provider prescription and chart notes, labs and bone age x-ray? Is a letter or chart notes from a mental health provider, with diagnosis and treatment plan required in addition to information from our medical provider's office?
4. What is your preferred specialty pharmacy, and do you have their contact information?
5. Do you cover suppression under pharmacy benefits, or is it excluded and thus requires an authorization through medical benefits?

For further questions, please contact Connie Earnest-Ritchey at 503-413-1596.