

Frequently Asked Questions

About Carelon Medical Benefits Management Cancer Treatment Pathways

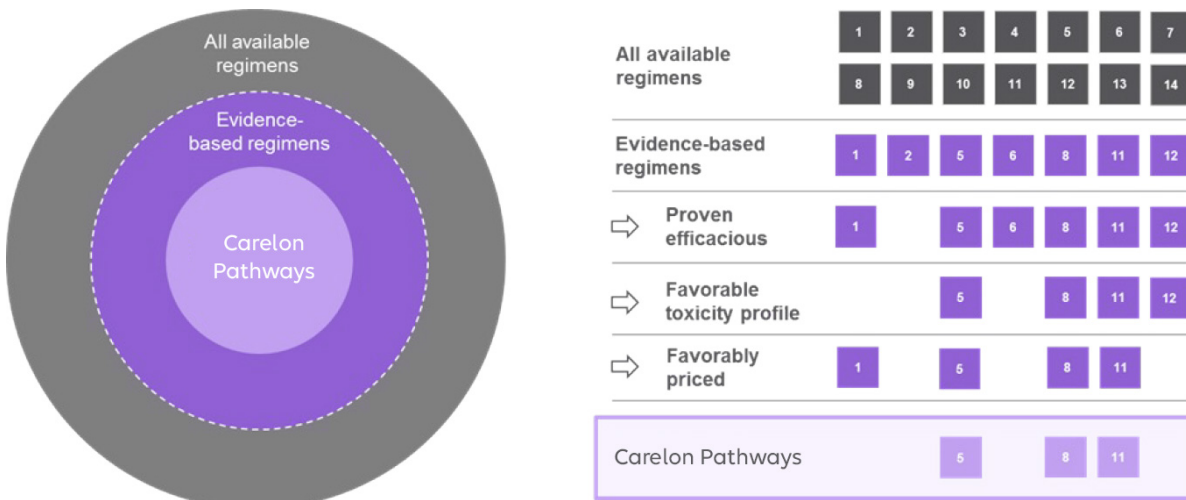
What is a Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway?

More specific than guidelines, Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways (Pathways) are a subset of evidence-based regimens. Pathways are classified by type of cancer, stage of disease, specific genetic profiles or the presence or absence of biomarkers, and line of therapy. Pathways are identified based on:

- Clinical benefits (efficacy)
- Side effects/toxicity – particularly side effects impacting quality of life, or lead to hospitalizations
- Strength of consensus guidelines

The efficacy and toxicity of a regimen are established through review of clinical evidence and compendia. Those regimens that have favorable efficacy and toxicity profiles as compared to all other chemotherapy treatments for the same diagnosis are then evaluated on the basis of cost. Cost information is sourced from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and RED BOOK™, published by Truven Health Analytics. Dosage and drug schedules (i.e., the interval between doses) may be considered in the selection of a Pathway regimen.

Figure 1: Pathway identification process



Standards of oncologic care evolve rapidly. To keep pace, Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways are reviewed at least quarterly – more often when warranted by new drug approvals, new clinical data, or changes in consensus guidelines.

All Pathways and Pathway updates are vetted by a panel of advisors, including practicing community and academic oncologists from the country’s leading cancer care institutions, before they are adopted as part of the FHCP Medical Oncology Program.

Does Carelon have a process to manage advisors’ potential conflicts of interest?

Upon agreeing to serve as an advisor, each panel member must sign an agreement outlining responsibilities, and disclose any potential conflicts of interest. Advisors also must agree to notify Carelon of new potential conflicts that may arise. Additionally, advisors must sign a conflict of interest attestation at least annually.

Where can I find a copy of the Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways?

The Pathways are posted [here](#), where you can find information, tools, and worksheets to assist you in incorporating the FHCP Medical Oncology Program into your practice.

What should I consider when selecting a Pathway?

To determine which Pathway regimens may be appropriate for a patient, consider the type of cancer, stage of disease, specific genetic profiles or the presence or absence of biomarkers, and line of therapy. Within each cancer type, separate Pathways are usually available for early stage and advanced cancers, cancer subtypes (e.g., HER2 positive), and lines of therapy.

What if I am treating a patient for whom a Pathway regimen is not available?

If a Pathway regimen is not available for a particular type of cancer or line of therapy, the regimen you select will be reviewed for benefit coverage under FHCP medical policy.

What happens if I do not select a treatment regimen that is designated as a Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway?

We recognize that every patient is unique. While efforts have been made to identify Pathways that offer the best treatment options for most patients, a treating oncologist may decide that another regimen is best for an individual patient. Whether a Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathway or an alternate regimen is chosen, the FHCP Medical Oncology Program supports all regimens that meet the clinical review criteria under FHCP medical policies and clinical guidelines.

Do Pathways apply to pediatric patients?

Carelon Pathways apply to adult oncology patients at this time. However, you are encouraged to enter all cancer treatment regimens for FHCP members, adults and children, into the Carelon **ProviderPortals**SM as some chemotherapeutic or supportive drugs may be subject to clinical appropriateness review.

Are supportive drugs included in Pathways?

Supportive care drugs, such as those used to manage side effects of chemotherapy, are not currently included in Carelon Cancer Treatment Pathways. However, the entire cancer treatment drug regimen, including supportive care drugs, should be included in an order request because certain supportive drugs may be included on the list of drugs that require clinical appropriateness review under FHCP medical policy.

Who do I contact if I need more information?

For more information, please find our website [here](#) or [email](#) us.

