Internet Formulary Advisor

Version 1.0

User Manual



December 2022 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

Revision History

Date	Revision	Description	Author
December 2022	1.0	Initial version	Liberty IT Solutions

Table of Contents

1.	Introdu	ction	1
	1.1. Pur	pose	1
2.	System	Summary	1
	2.1. Nav	vigation	1
	2.2. Site	Navigation	3
	2.3. Ser	nding Feedback	4
	2.4. VA	Global Header	5
3.	Gettino	ı Started	6
	3.1. Sea	nrch	6
	3.1. Sea 3.1.1.	i rch Search by URL	6 9
	3.1. Sea 3.1.1. 3.1.2.	Irch Search by URL Accessing CFU Documents	6 9 9
	3.1. Sea 3.1.1. 3.1.2. 3.2. Dru	Search by URL Accessing CFU Documents	6 9 9 9
	3.1. Sea 3.1.1. 3.1.2. 3.2. Dru 3.2.1.	arch Search by URL Accessing CFU Documents Ig Detail Page Related Drugs & Classes Listings	6 9 9 10 11
	3.1. Sea 3.1.1. 3.1.2. 3.2. Dru 3.2.1. 3.2.2.	Search by URL Accessing CFU Documents g Detail Page Related Drugs & Classes Listings Other Drugs in Same Class	6 9 10 11 12
	3.1. Sea 3.1.1. 3.1.2. 3.2. Dru 3.2.1. 3.2.2. 3.2.3.	Search by URL Accessing CFU Documents In Detail Page Related Drugs & Classes Listings Other Drugs in Same Class Other Classes in Same Category	6 9 10 11 12 13

List of Figures

Figure 2-1. VA Formulary Advisor URL	1
Figure 2-2. Pharmacy Benefits Management Services Site	2
Figure 2-3. Home Page Featuring Search Pane	3
Figure 2-4. Feedback Email Links	4
Figure 2-5. Global Header	5
Figure 2-6. Global Footer	5
Figure 3-1. Search Pane on Home Page	6
Figure 3-2. Search for Drug, Drug Class or Therapeutic Category	7
Figure 3-3. Filter by Drug Class	7
Figure 3-4. Filter by Formulary Status	8
Figure 3-5. Search the VA National Formulary	8
Figure 3-6. Indication for Drugs with CFU	9
Figure 3-7. CFU Information	9
Figure 3-8. Documents & Links Section of Drug Detail Page	10
Figure 3-9. Drug Detail Page	11
Figure 3-10. Other Drug and Classes Button	11
Figure 3-11. Medications in Class List	12
Figure 3-12. Classes Within Category List	13

1. Introduction

The VA Internet Formulary Advisor is a tool intended for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and non-VA personnel to search VA National Formulary information.

1.1. Purpose

This User Manual describes the functional characteristics, important features, and navigational elements of the VA Internet Formulary Advisor.

2. System Summary

The VA Internet Formulary Advisor provides users with the following functions:

- Search publicly accessible information from the VA National Formulary and Community Care Urgent/Emergent Formulary Information quickly and easily
- Search by Drug, Drug Class, and Therapeutic Category
- Filter search results by formulary status
- Check other drugs in the same class or category
- Review Criteria for Use (CFU) documents

The primary benefit of the VA Internet Formulary Advisor is to provide users a more comprehensive and user-friendly search tool.

2.1. Navigation

Users have two ways to navigate to the VA Internet Formulary Advisor:

1. Enter the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL) into the navigation bar: https://www.va.gov/FormularyAdvisor

Figure 2-1. VA Formulary Advisor URL

		lew tab		× +										×
-	\rightarrow	C	â	www.va.gov/FormularyAdvisor	۲	e.	Ŷ	æ	45	ж	3 0	Ē	- 50	

- 2. Via the Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) Services site on va.gov.
 - a. Enter the following URL into the navigation bar: https://www.pbm.va.gov



Figure 2-2. Pharmacy Benefits Management Services Site

2.2. Site Navigation

Once on the site, users are on the home page where the search pane is visible.

Figure 2-3. Home Page Featuring Search Pane	Figure 2-3.	Home F	Page	Featuring	Search	Pane
---	-------------	--------	------	-----------	--------	------



The home page includes the search pane with different filters for each search and an **Abbreviations Quick Reference** guide for the various icons that may appear in search results.

The top navigation for the page has the following items:

- Home page: Allows users to navigate back to the landing page.
- Glossary: Lists the terms and abbreviations found throughout the site.
- About page: Information about the site. "The VA Formulary Advisor is a resource for VA and Non-VA users to easily search for VA National formulary information. All efforts are made to maintain an accurate and up to date formulary reference which coincides with the latest official VA formulary data sources."
- **Support team email link:** This link opens an email message that allows users to email the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) PBM Internet Formulary team.

2.3. Sending Feedback

If a user would like to send feedback about the VA Internet Formulary Advisor, they can do so by clicking on the email link in the top navigation bar.

VA Formulary Advisor	🔍 New Search 🗏 Glossary 🗹 App Feedback
Search the VA National Formulary:	
Drug Class Therapeutic Category	Start typing in the search box to begin your search
Q Enter at least three characters VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All Helpful Information:	VA Formulary Advisor is a resource for VA and Non-VA users to easily search for VA National formulary information. All efforts are made to maintain an accurate and up to date formulary reference which coincides with
Abbreviations Quick Reference	the latest official VA formulary data sources.
Urgent/Emergent Formulary full List	Enter a medication name in the search field and select
Documents Index	whether to filter by VA Formulary items only, Urgent/Emergent Care Formulary items only, or all items in our database. In addition to searching by drug name you may also search by VA class (number or description), or Therapeutic Class/VA Parent Class by using the corresponding filters above the search box.

Figure 2-4. Feedback Email Links

2.4. VA Global Header

The VA branded global header and footer is currently managed by the Public Website team. When a change is made to the va.gov headers and footers, these changes will also be made to the Formulary Advisor's.

An official website of the United States government <u>Here's how you know</u>	Talk to the Veterans Crisis Line now >
VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	♀ Search ♀ Contact us Sign in
VA Benefits and Health Care \checkmark About VA \checkmark Find a VA Location	My VA

Figure 2-5. Global Header



Veteran programs and	More VA resources	Get VA updates	In crisis? Talk to
services	1/A F	N/A =	someone now
Homoloss Veterans	<u>VA forms</u>	<u>VA news</u>	Veterans Crisis Line
Homeless veterans	VA health care access and quality	Press releases	
<u>Women Veterans</u>	Accredited claims representatives	Email updates	Get answers
Minority Veterans	<u>VA mobile apps</u>	<u>Facebook</u>	Resources and support
LGBTQ+ Veterans	State Veterans Affairs offices	<u>Instagram</u>	<u>Contact us</u>
PTSD	Doing business with VA	<u>Twitter</u>	Call us
<u>Mental health</u>	<u>Careers at VA</u>	<u>Flickr</u>	
Adaptive sports and special	VA outreach materials	YouTube	800-698-2411
<u>events</u>		All \/A social modia	<u>TTY: 711</u>
VA outreach events			Visit a medical center or
National Resource Directory			regional office
			Find a VA location
Language assistance			
Español Tagalog Other langu	ages		
VA WS. Department of Veterans Affairs			

Items found in the header:

- VA Benefits and Health Care dropdown menu: Links to various VA benefit information.
- About VA dropdown menu.
- Find a VA Location link: Allows users to find a nearby VA center.

Items found in the footer:

- Veteran Programs and Services menu: Links for users to find various resources and programs offered by the VA.
- More VA resources menu:
- Get VA Updates: Links to social media, news, press releases, etc.
- Veterans Crisis Line link: Gives uses the resources to connect with the 24/7 crisis care line via web chat, text, or phone call.
- VA Contact information.
- Language assistance.

3. Getting Started

The following sections provide instructions on conducting searches and accessing CFU documents.

3.1. Search

Users can search for various drugs, drug classes and therapeutic categories using the search pane found on the home page.

Figure 3-1. Search Pane on Home Page

Drug	Drug Class	Therapeutic Cate	egory
Q Enter	r at least three ch	aracters	
VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All			
Helpful Inf	ormation:		
	Abbreviations Qu	uick Reference	

To start a search for a drug, drug class, or therapeutic category, user must enter a minimum of three characters.

🔢 VA Formulary Advisor	A Hom	e 📕 Glossary 🚯 About 🖼 App Feedback
Search the VA National Formulary:	3 Results - Select an item for addition	onal details
Drug Drug Class Therapeutic Category Q riv X	RIVAROXABAN TAB (XARELTO)	PA-F D CFU
VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All	RIVASTIGMINE CAP (EXELON)	N
Helpful Information:	RIVASTIGMINE PATCH	0
Abbreviations Quick Reference		

Figure 3-2. Search for Drug, Drug Class or Therapeutic Category

If searching by drug class, user needs to enter a minimum of two characters.

Figure 3-3. Filter by Drug Class

🔢 VA Formulary Advisor	🏫 Home 🗧 Gl	lossary 🚯 About 📨 App Feedback
Search the VA National Formulary:	138 Results - Select an item for additional o	details
Drug Drug Class Therapeutic Category	ANTIVIRALS (AM800)	Drug Class
Helpful Information:	ANTIRHEUMATICS,OTHER (MS190)	Drug Class
Abbreviations Quick Reference	ANTINEOPLASTIC, OTHER (AN900)	Drug Class
	ANTINEOPLASTIC HORMONES (AN500)	Drug Class
	NON-OPIOID ANALGESICS (CN103)	Drug Class
	OPIOID ANALGESICS (CN101)	Drug Class
	ANTIHISTAMINE/ ANTITUSSIVE/ ANALGESIC (RE509)	Drug Class
	NON-OPIOID-CONTAINING ANTITUSSIVES/ EXPECTORANTS (RE302)	Drug Class
	ANTIHISTAMINE/ ANTITUSSIVE (RESO7)	(Drug Class)
	ANTIHISTAMINE/ DECONGESTANT/ ANTITUSSIVE/ ANALGESIC (RESO6)	Drug Class
	DECONGESTANT/ ANTITUSSIVE/ EXPECTORANT/ ANALGESIC (RES14)	Drug Class

Users can also filter by formulary status: VA Formulary, Urgent/Emergent Formulary, or All items in the national drug file.

Search the	VA National F	Formulary:		
Drug	Drug Class	Therapeutic Cate	egory	
Q Enter	at least three ch	aracters		
VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All			All	
Helpful Info				
3				

Figure 3-4. Filter by Formulary Status

Searches can be entered as comma or space separated. The order in which the terms are entered does not change the search results.

Figure 3-5. Search the VA National Formulary

🏫 Home 🛛 🗏 Glossary 🕚	About 🔤 App Feedback
7 Results - Select an item for additional details	
AMOXICILLIN/ OMEPRAZOLE/ RIFABUTIN CAP,EC (TALICIA)	NF
ISONIAZID/ RIFAMPIN CAP (RIFAMPIN AND ISONIAZID, RIFAMATE)	G
METHYLPHENIDATE HCL (EQV-RITALIN LA) CAP,SA	0
RIBAVIRIN CAP (REBETOL, RIBASPHERE)	F-R
RIFABUTIN CAP (MYCOBUTIN)	0
RIFAMPIN CAP (RIFADIN, RIMACTANE)	0
	NF
	Amerright CAP (RIFAMPIN CAP (RIFAMPIN CAP (RIFAURIN LA) RIBAVIRIN CAP (RIFAURIN LA) RIBAVIRIN CAP (RIFAURIN LA) (RIFAURIN CAP (RIFAUR

The user sees the following search results as show above in Figure 3-5:

- Generic and Trade Name for the drug search results.
- Colored formulary status and other document indicators.
 - For more information on these icons refer to the **Abbreviations Quick Reference**.

3.1.1. Search by URL

Users can also search directly by entering search queries in the URL bar.

- www.va.gov/formularyadvisor/search/drugname
 - or
- www.va.gov/formularyadvisor/?s=drugname

3.1.2. Accessing CFU Documents

Drugs with CFU documentation have an indicator in the search results.

Figure 3-6. Indication for Drugs with CFU

🙀 VA Formulary Advisor	🏫 Home 🗏 Glossary 😗 About 🚿 App Feedback
Search the VA National Formulary:	3 Results - Select an item for additional details
Drug Drug Class Therapeutic Category Q riv X	RIVAROXABAN TAB (XARELTO)
VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary All	RIVASTIGMINE CAP
Helpful Information:	RIVASTIGMINE PATCH
Abbreviations Quick Reference	

Users can hover over this indicator to see which CFU documents are available. Clicking the link opens the corresponding CFU Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

Figure 3-7. CFU Information

🔢 VA Formulary Advisor	in Home 🗧 Glossary 😗 About 🖼 App Feedb
Search the VA National Formulary:	2. Results - Solast an item for additional datails
Drug Class Therapeutic Catego	Link: Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for Stroke Prevention in Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation [2020 Apr] Link: Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for Treatment of VTE [2020 Apr]
Q riv	Link: Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for VTE Prophylaxis for Total Hip or Total Knee Replacement Surgery [2020 Apr]
VA Formulary Urgent/Emergent Formulary	Link: Criteria for Use: Rivaroxaban (XARELTO) LOW-DOSE (2.5 mg twice daily) Criteria for Use in Chronic Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) [2019 Nov]
Helpful Information:	RIVASTIGMINE PATCH
Abbreviations Quick Reference	

The CFUs can also be accessed through the **Documents & Links** section on the **Drug Detail** page.

	전에서 가슴은 바람은 것 하나라는 것이 있었다. 				
IVAROXABAN TAB ssible Synonyms: XARELTO					
Drug Detail Drug Class: ANTICOAGULANTS VA Class Code: BL110	Additional Info This item requires facility-level prior authorization. Review criteria for use documentation or contact your local VA Pharmacy POC for additional information on the VA non-formulary				
Therapeutic Category: BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME EXPANDERS Formulary Information Formulary Status: (PAF) Local Prior Authorization Required Copay Tier: 3 Copay Tier Information on VAgov Urgent/Emergent Formulary: N	process. Documents & Links Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for Stroke Prevention in Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation [2020 Apr] Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for Treatment of VTE [2020 Apr] Criteria for Use: Direct Oral Anticoagulants for VTE Prophylaxis for Total Hip or Total Knee Replacement Surgery [2020 Apr] Criteria for Use: Rivaroxaban (XARELTO) LOW-DOSE (2.5 mg twice daily) Criteria for Use in				
	Chronic Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) [2019 Nov] Other Drugs In Same Class Other Classes In Same Category				

Figure 3-8. Documents & Links Section of Drug Detail Page

3.2. Drug Detail Page

The Drug Detail page provides the following information to users:

- Drug class
- VA Class Code
- Therapeutic Category
- Formulary Status
- Copay Tier
 - Link to the Copay Tier information on **va.gov**
- If the drug is on the Urgent/Emergent Formulary
- Additional information about the drug
- Any CFU documentation
- Links to show Other Drugs in Same Class and Other Classes in Same Category

Figure 3-9. Drug Detail Page



3.2.1. Related Drugs & Classes Listings

The Drug Detail page includes links that bring up lists within the page of Other Drugs in Same Class and Other Classes In Same Category.



♠ Home 🗧 Glossary 😗 About 📼 App Feed			
Additional Info			
Other Drugs In Same Class			

3.2.2. Other Drugs in Same Class

The list results are clickable and take the user to the detail page for those results. These results can also be filtered by **VA Formulary**, **Urgent/Emergent Formulary**, or **Show All**.

Clicking on **Other Drugs In Same Class** brings up a list of medications in the same class as the drug searched.

Figure	3-11.	Medications	in	Class	List

RIVAROXABAN TAB		Medications i	n class: ITS (BL110)	
Drug Detail Drug Class: ANTICOAGULANTS VA Class Code: BL110 Therapeutic Category: BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME EXPANDERS Formulary Information Formulary Status: Coll Prior Authorization Required Copay Tier: 3 Copay Tier: 3 Copay Tier Information on VVgov Urgent/Emergent Formulary: N	Additional Info This item requires facility-level contact your local VA Pharmacy F process. Documents & Links Criteria for Use: Direct Oral An Fibrillation (2020 Apr) Criteria for Use: Direct Oral An Replacement Surgery (2020 Apr) Chronic Coronary Artery Disease	VA Formulary APIXABAN TAB ARGATROBAN IN ARGATROBAN IN BIVALIRUDIN 250 DABIGATRAN CA DALTEPARIN INJ DEXTROSE/ HEPA EDOXABAN TAB ENOXAPARIN INJ EPTIFIBATIDE INJ FONDAPARINUX HEPARIN INJ	Urgent/Emergent Formulary	Show All PAE C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C

3.2.3. Other Classes in Same Category

Clicking on **Other Drugs In Same Category** brings up classes within the category of the drug class of the drug just searched.

IVAROXABAN TAB seible Synonymis XARELTO		Classes Within Category: BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME	EXPANDERS
Drug Detail Drug Class: ANTICOAGULANTS VA Class Code: BL110 Therapeutic Category: BLOOD PRODUCTS/ MODIFIERS/ VOLUME EXPANDERS Formulary Information Formulary Status: Color Prior Authorization Required Copay Tier: 3 Copay Tier: 3 Copay Tier Information on VAgoy Urgent/Emergent Formulary: N	Additional Info This item requires facility-level contact your local VA Pharmacy is process. Documents & Links Criteris for Use: Direct Oral An Piblilation [2020 Apr] Criteris for Use: Direct Oral An Replacement Surgery [2020 Apr] Criteria for Use: Rivaroxaban () Chronic Coronary Artery Disease	BLOOD DERIVATIVES BLOOD PRODUCTS,OTHER THROMBOLYTICS ANTIHEMORRHAGICS BLOOD FORMATION PRODUCTS BLOOD FORMATION PRODUCTS ANTICOAGULANTS PLATELET AGGREGATION INHIBITORS VOLUME EXPANDERS HEPARIN ANTAGONISTS	81.51 81.91 81.11 81.11 81.11 81.11 81.11

Figure 3-12. Classes Within Category List

4. Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
CFU	Criteria for Use
OIT	Office of Information and Technology
PBM	Pharmacy Benefits Management
PDF	Portable Document Format
URL	Uniform Resource Locator (Web address)
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA	Veterans Health Administration