Clarest Health

Issue Date: September 29, 2026.

Medications to Watch

LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY UPDATE

Dear Partner,

Below are the generic launches, brand approvals, and new FDA drug approvals most relevant to long-term care.

First generics expected for drugs commonly used in LTC. Generic entry usually lowers cost:

Projected Date	Brand / Generic	Therapeutic Use	Why It Matters
2H 2026	**Jentadueto / Jentadueto XR / Tradjenta** Linagliptin (± Metformin)	Type 2 diabetes (DPP-4 inhibitor)	Widely used in LTC; no renal dose adjustment needed
2H 2026	**ZTlido (1.8%)** Lidocaine	Localized chronic pain (topical patch)	Non-opioid option for chronic pain
11/10/2026	**Horizant** Gabapentin Enacarbil	Restless legs syndrome; postherpetic neuralgia	First generic; PHN and RLS are common in older adults
11/25/2026 (Day-181)	**Januvia / Janumet** Sitagliptin (± Metformin)	Type 2 diabetes (DPP-4 inhibitor)	5+ generics expected; heavily used in LTC
2026	**Qbrelis** Lisinopril (oral solution)	Hypertension / heart failure	Liquid ACE inhibitor for residents with dysphagia or feeding tubes
2026	**Byvalson** Nebivolol; Valsartan	Hypertension (combination)	Two antihypertensives in one tablet
2026	**Simbrinza** Brimonidine; Brinzolamide	Glaucoma (combination eye drop)	Two glaucoma agents in one bottle
2026	**Izba** Travoprost	Glaucoma	Common maintenance therapy in older adults
2026–2027	**Arymo ER** Morphine Sulfate	Chronic/palliative pain (extended-release)	Extended-release option for chronic and end-of-life pain
2026–2027	**Tirosint-Sol** Levothyroxine (oral solution)	Hypothyroidism	Liquid form for residents who can't swallow tablets
2026–2027	**Cubicin RF** Daptomycin	Gram-positive infections (IV antibiotic)	IV option for skilled nursing and subacute residents
11/30/2026 (Day-181)	**Xeljanz XR (22 mg)** Tofacitinib Citrate	Rheumatoid arthritis	5+ generics expected; RA is common in LTC
12/14/2026 (Day-181)	**Edarbi** Azilsartan Kamedoxomil	Hypertension (ARB)	5+ generics expected; should lower cost

Recent and upcoming brand approvals relevant to LTC residents:

Date	Drug Name	Indication	Key Info
Approved 09/17/2026	**Kerendia (tablet)** Finerenone (Bayer)	Diabetic nephropathy (kidney disease)	Now approved for diabetic kidney disease
Approved 09/23/2026	**Onswik** Insulin Efsitora Alfa (Eli Lilly)	Improve glycemic control in type 2 diabetes	Second once-weekly basal insulin, after Awiqli
09/30/2026 (PDUFA)	**Camzyos** Mavacamten (BMS)	Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	First-in-class cardiac myosin inhibitor

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Date	Drug Name	Indication	Key Info
Approved 08/27/2026	**Mounjaro** Tirzepatide (Eli Lilly)	Reduce CV mortality in type 2 diabetes	Now indicated to reduce CV death, not just lower glucose
Approved 08/28/2026	**Stelara** Ustekinumab (J&J/Janssen)	Ulcerative colitis	New GI indication for an established biologic
4Q 2026 (PDUFA)	**Talzenna (capsule)** Talazoparib Tosylate (Pfizer)	Prostate cancer	For residents treated for prostate cancer
Approved 08/25/2026	**Tivicay / Tivicay PD** Dolutegravir Sodium (ViiV)	HIV-1 infection	Updated formulations, including a dispersible tablet
Approved 08/28/2026	**Mimrylo** Rusfertide (Protagonist)	Polycythemia vera (erythrocytosis)	New option for polycythemia vera

Approvals from the FDA's 2026 Novel Drug Approvals list most likely to affect LTC:

Approval Date	Drug Name	FDA-Approved Use	Why It Matters
3/26/2026	**Awiqli** Insulin icodec-abae	Improve glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes	*First once-weekly basal insulin*; fewer injections and less nursing time
6/17/2026	**Utebzi** Tebipenem pivoxil	Complicated UTIs, incl. pyelonephritis, with limited alternative oral options	Oral alternative to IV; may avoid hospital transfer
5/29/2026	**Zaynich** Cefepime and zidebactam	Complicated UTIs from designated resistant organisms	IV option for resistant infections seen in skilled nursing
5/15/2026	**Baxfendy** Baxdrostat	Hypertension, as add-on therapy	New drug class for hard-to-control blood pressure
2/20/2026	**Bysanti** Milsaperidone	Schizophrenia; manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder	New antipsychotic option
5/29/2026	**Xocova** Ensitrelvir	Post-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19	Oral option to limit outbreaks after exposure
7/24/2026	**Lytenava** Bevacizumab-vikg	Neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration	New option for a common condition in older adults
7/15/2026	**Lipfendra** Enlicitide decanoate	LDL cholesterol reduction	First oral PCSK9-class drug; alternative to injections

Source: FDA Novel Drug Approvals for 2026, fda.gov (current as of 09/14/2026)

Questions about how these changes affect your formulary or costs? Contact your Clarest Health clinical pharmacy team.

Regards,

Clarest Health Clinical & Pharmacy Services Team

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