



Department
of Health

Medicaid NYRx

NYRx Education & Outreach MCO Newsletter

January 16, 2026

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Highlights

Phosphate Binders/Regulators for Patients on Dialysis Effective January 1, 2026

To align with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy (89 FR 89084), phosphate binder/regulator drugs for patients on dialysis are no longer covered as a pharmacy benefit by NYRx.

Phosphate binders/regulators are provided by the member's dialysis center. Medicaid Fee-for-Service and Medicaid Managed Care dialysis bundled payment rates will be adjusted to account for this change.

Starting January 1, 2026, new and refill claims submitted to NYRx for a phosphate binder/regulator for patients on dialysis will deny with the message "PA required." However, a PA is not available for these drugs for these patients. All providers should direct Medicaid members to their dialysis center to obtain their phosphate binder/regulator.

[NYRx Notice to Providers: Coverage Update Phosphate Binders/Regulators](#)





Have You Heard of the NYRx Cost Optimization Program?

Effective December 18, 2025, NYRx has initiated a cost optimization program to help address increasing drug costs. This program focuses on a specific drug trend that is primarily occurring with new formulations and dosages of older drug products. These drugs are being manufactured and entering the market with substantially higher launch prices than equally efficacious, cost-effective alternatives.

The following drugs now require a Manual Review by NYRx for coverage approval:

- Carbinoxamine Maleate 6 mg Tablet
- Chlorzoxazone 250 mg Tablet
- Diclofenac Potassium 25 mg Tablet
- Dolobid 250 mg Tablet
- Halcinonide 0.1% Solution
- Hydrocortisone 2.5% Solution
- Meloxicam 5 mg and 10 mg Capsule
- Metformin HCl 750 mg (IR) Tablet
- Relafen DS 1,000 mg Tablet
- Tetracycline 250 mg Tablet
- Tolectin 600 mg Tablet
- Tolmetin Sodium 400 mg Capsule

MCOs should review this update and apply proper care coordination, as needed.

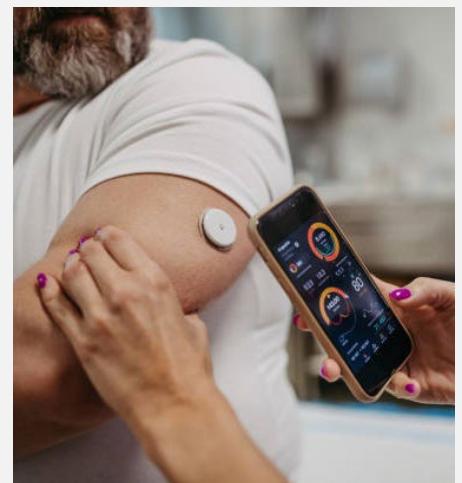
[NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview](#)

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Did You Receive the NYRx Notice to Providers, Pharmacies, and MCOs: Early Alert – Glucose Monitor Sensor Issue from Abbott Diabetes Care?

As a reminder, on December 2, 2025, the FDA posted an Early Alert about a letter distributed by Abbott Diabetes Care to distributors, healthcare providers, and affected customers, recommending that certain FreeStyle Libre 3 and FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus sensors be removed from distribution or sale and that customers discontinue use. These sensors have been reported to produce incorrect low glucose readings. Incorrect low glucose readings can lead to wrong treatment decisions by patients or caregivers, which can lead to serious injury or death.

[NYRx Notice to Providers, Pharmacies, and MCOs: Early Alert – Glucose Monitor Sensor Issue from Abbott Diabetes Care](#)



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Is Wegovy Covered by NYRx?

Wegovy is subject to prior authorization (PA) criteria under the NYRx Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program and is subject to the following PA criteria:

- Frequency/Quantity/Duration Parameters:
 - Lifetime Quantity Limit: Two treatment attempts per lifetime
- Additional/Alternate Parameter(s):
 - Confirm diagnosis of cardiovascular disease
 - Confirm patient BMI of >40 kg/ m²
 - Confirm patient is participating in lifestyle modifications that support cardiovascular health

[NYRx Drug Coverage Overview: Wegovy®](#)

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Publications

Click to access [NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program](#) website for these publications and more:

- NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Anti-Infective – Topicals
- NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Central Nervous System Stimulants and Other Agents for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Immunomodulators – Systemic and Benlysta
- NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Short-Acting Opioids
- NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Sodium Glucose Co-Transporter 2 Inhibitors
- NYRx Opioid Dependence Agents
- NYRx Drug Coverage Overview: Trelegy Ellipta®
- NYRx Notice to Providers: Coverage Update Phosphate Binders/Regulators

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Helpful Links



[NYRx Preferred Drug List](#)



[NYRx Preferred Drug Quick List](#)



[NYRx eMedNY Formulary File](#)



[NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program Updates](#)



[NYRx Preferred Diabetic Supply Program](#)

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About the NYRx E&O Team

The NYRx E&O team serves as a liaison between all stakeholders and NYRx to support care coordination. Clinical liaisons are trained to support and help solve complex pharmacy cases for:



- Managed Care Plans
- Case workers and NYS agencies
- Prescribers and pharmacies with questions regarding NYRx drug coverage, prior approval requirements, and NYRx enrolled pharmacies
- Complex care coordination for populations such as HIV/AIDS, Hemophilia, Foster Care Children, Serious Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorder, and Hepatitis C

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Weekly Webinars

To register, please visit the [NYRx Education & Outreach](#) website.

Prescriber Webinar

Mondays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

Pharmacy Webinar

Wednesdays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program

Fridays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

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Contact Us

Office Hour Q&A Pop-In

Mondays and Wednesdays

12 PM – 1 PM ET

[Click here to join.](#)

Meet with the Team

The NYRx E&O team meets with various 29-I agencies throughout the month. Would you like to request a meeting with us? Click [here](#).

NYRx E&O Call Center

1-833-967-7310

Monday – Friday

8 AM – 5 PM ET

Excludes Holidays



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