



Department
of Health

Medicaid NYRx

NYRx Education & Outreach MCO Newsletter

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March 20, 2026

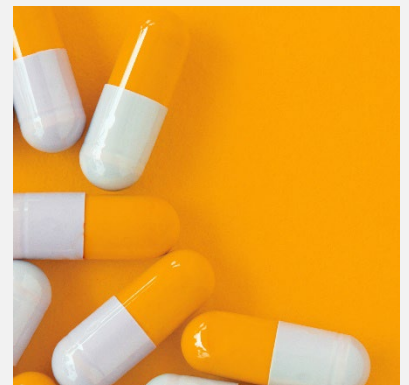
Highlights

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program: Prior Authorization Update

Effective **February 19, 2026**, prior authorization (PA) requirements may change in the following Preferred Drug Program (PDP) drug classes: including Immunomodulators & Related Agents, Topicals; Immunomodulators, Systemic; and Leukotriene Modifiers.

The following Drug Utilization Review (DUR) program clinical criteria requirements will be implemented:

- PA will be required for patients utilizing a Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitor and a Glucagon like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist concurrently.
- PA will be required for patients utilizing two or more Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) concurrently.
- For patients initiating an antispasmodic skeletal muscle relaxant, PA will be required for a quantity exceeding a 14-day supply and up to one refill. The quantity and frequency limitations do not apply to skeletal muscle relaxants when used as spasmolytics.
- Trial of two Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) at maximally tolerated doses prior to the use of a Potassium Competitive Acid Blocker (PCAB). The recommendation does not apply to a diagnosis of *Helicobacter pylori* (H. Pylori).
- Elevidys will be covered for male patients, four to five years of age, in compliance with all Food and Drug Administration (FDA) product safety labeling requirements.





NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, launched a cost optimization program to address rising drug costs. This program focuses on a specific drug trend primarily affecting new formulations and dosages of older drug products. These drugs are being manufactured and are entering the market with substantially higher launch prices than equally efficacious, cost-effective alternatives. They also lack additional clinical utility, while others lack clear medical necessity for specific formulations and dosages.



Effective **March 19, 2026**, the following drugs were **ADDED** to the program and require a Manual Review by NYRx for coverage approval:

- **buspirone (Bucapsol™)** 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg capsule, **clindamycin phosphate (Clindagel)** 1% gel, **clobetasol** 0.025% cream, **dexchlorpheniramine** 2 mg/5 mL solution, **Ertaczo®** 2% cream, **fenoprofen (Fenopron)** 300 mg capsule, **gabapentin (Gabarone)** 100 mg, 400 mg tablet, **ketoprofen** 75 mg capsule, **meloxicam (Zybic)** 7.5 mg/5 mL suspension, **Metaxalone** 640 mg tablet, **metoprolol tartrate (Lopressor)** 12.5 mg tablet, **Nitrofurantoin** 50 mg/5 mL suspension, **Pokonza™** 10 mEq packet, **Sdamlo™** 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg powder for solution, **tetracycline** 500 mg tablet, and **tizanidine** 8 mg capsule and will be ADDED to the program.

For more information, see [NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview](#).



NYRx Formulary Update: Evotaz

On September 30, 2024, Bristol Myers Squibb announced a business decision to discontinue Evotaz (atazanavir/cobicistat) tablets. Global manufacturing is estimated to cease beginning in April 2026.

At this time, the drug supply may be limited. Notification has been provided to prescribers who have prescribed Evotaz for a New York Medicaid member. For more information, see [NYRx Formulary Update: Evotaz](#).

What Prescribers Need to Do

- Prescribers should switch patients to products that remain available in the marketplace.
- For more information about coverage of Antiretroviral Agents for HIV Treatment, please see [Coverage of Antiretroviral Agents for HIV Treatment and HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis](#).



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Billing Guidance for Backup Power Wheelchair Repairs (K0899-TW)

Effective **January 1, 2026**, for Fee-for-Service (FFS) and **March 1, 2026**, for Managed Care, in limited instances, Group 2 through Group 6 power wheelchairs (PWC) with or without power options are eligible for use as a backup PWC when the user has been provided with a new, primary PWC.

For detailed billing guidance, see [Billing Guidance for Backup Power Wheelchair Repairs](#).



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Publications

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

- Billing & Coordination of Benefits
- Drug Class Coverage Overviews
- Newsletters
- Notifications
- Prior Authorization Information

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Quicklinks



[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 stakeholders 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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