



Department
of Health

Medicaid NYRx

NYRx Education & Outreach MCO Newsletter

[Highlights](#) | [Publications](#) | [Quicklinks](#) | [About](#) | [Weekly Webinars](#) | [Contact](#)

May 15, 2026

Highlights

NYRx Cost Optimization Program Update

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, 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 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 those specific formulations and dosages.

Effective **April 23, 2026**, the following drugs require a Manual Review by NYRx for coverage approval:

- **Accrufer®** 30 mg capsule, **carbinoxamine (Carbzah™)** 4 mg/5 mL solution, **desloratadine** 0.5 mg/ mL solution, **doxycycline hyclate** 50 mg tablet, **fenofibrate** 120 mg tablet, **glimepiride** 3 mg tablet, **lactulose (Kristalose®)** 10 g , 20 g packet, **methocarbamol (Tanlor®)** 1000 mg tablet, **tretinoin** gel micro 0.08% pump, and **ursodiol (Reltone™)** 200 mg, 400 mg capsule have been **ADDED** to the program.



For the most up to date list, see the [NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Cost Optimization Program Page](#).



Top ↑

NYRx Notice to Prescribers and Pharmacies: Prescription Versus Over-the-Counter Drugs

The NYRx Preferred Drug Program (PDP) promotes the use of less expensive, equally effective drugs when medically appropriate through a [Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#). Drugs that are available as both legend (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) will be identified accordingly on the PDL.

Preferred drugs will not require prior authorization (PA) if the required coverage parameters are found in the member's Medicaid claim history at the time of pharmacy claim submission. Non-preferred drugs will require PA.



For example, a member can obtain olopatadine OTC without a PA, but the olopatadine legend (Rx) formulation would require a PA. This can be true for drugs in other PDL drug classes as well, such as:

- Acne Agents, Topical
- Anti-Fungals, Topical
- Antihistamines – Ophthalmic
- Antihistamines – Second Generation
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
- Proton Pump (PPI)/Acid Secretion Inhibitors

For more information, see [NYRx Notice to Prescribers and Pharmacies: Prescription Versus Over-the-Counter Drugs](#).



[Top ↑](#)

NYRx Out-of-State Traveling

Early Refill Policy

Members are allowed to refill a prescription before the total amount of the previous supply was used if one of the two following conditions exist, the more stringent rule will apply:

- More than 75 percent of the previously dispensed amount has been used, or
- No more than a 10-day supply (non-controlled substance) or 7-day supply (controlled substance) of medication is remaining based on the cumulative amount that has been dispensed over the previous 90 days.

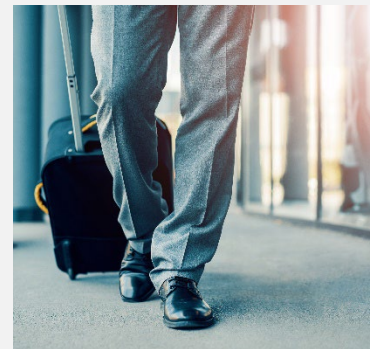
Early filling of more than the allowed amount for vacation or a temporary absence is not permissible.

Vacation Policy

NYS Medicaid ensures an ample supply of medication to accommodate most vacations or temporary absences. NYS Medicaid does not provide an additional supply of medication for these occurrences.

Members should prepare in advance of travel and use the options available to ensure they have the supply needed. Options include:

- Early refill as outlined in the section above, or
- Work with their pharmacy and/or prescriber to increase the days' supply of medication dispensed per fill. NYRx will allow up to a 90-day supply to be dispensed for some maintenance medications. If a member has been stabilized on the medication and has been taking their medication consistently, they may talk to their pharmacist or prescriber about increasing the day supply dispensed. This option may require a new prescription.



For more information, see [NYRx Out-of-State Traveling](#).



[Top ↑](#)

What Is an IVN, and How Can I Obtain One?

An Individual Verification Number (IVN) is a unique identifier assigned to individuals associated with a Managed Care Organization (MCO) or State agency who do not have a National Provider Identifier (NPI), but who require access to the NYRx E&O Team to discuss member-protected health information (PHI).



The IVN is used to verify the caller's identity and serves as the required HIPAA authorization. Access Request Contacts (ARCs) must complete a form to authorize call center access for identified Designated Users (DUs). ARCs are primary points of contact for their organization, typically consisting of leaders, directors, and compliance officers. Authorized access to PHI must be limited to what is necessary based on the DU's job responsibilities. Once the request is approved, the DU will receive an email with their assigned IVN and instructions for contacting the call center.

The NYRx E&O team recommends that all organizational staff who directly support care coordination functions, including case workers and case managers, obtain an IVN.

For questions related to the form, contact NYRxEO@primetherapeutics.com.



[Top ↑](#)

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

[Top ↑](#)

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

[Top 1](#)

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

[Top 1](#)

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

[Top 1](#)

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



[Top ↑](#)



[Visit Our Website](#)



[Email Us](#)



[NYRx E&O Channel](#)



[NYS Public Health Now Podcast](#)