



Department of Health  
Medicaid NYRx

## NYRx Education & Outreach MCO Newsletter

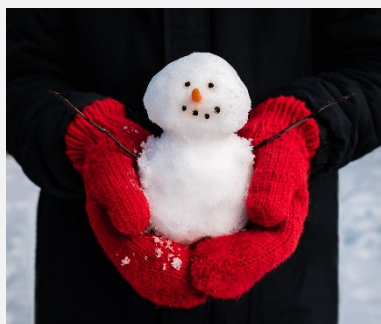
[Highlights](#) | [Publications](#) | [Quicklinks](#) | [About](#) | [Weekly Webinars](#) | [Contact](#)

October 2026

### Highlights

#### NYRx Coverage of the 2026-2027 Influenza Vaccine

NYRx, the New York State Medicaid Pharmacy Program, is providing coverage for the **2026-2027 influenza vaccine**, in accordance with New York State (NYS) Education Law and Commissioner of Health.



- Pharmacists certified to administer immunizations are authorized to administer the influenza vaccine to children between the ages of 2 and 18, as well as to adults 18 years of age and older.
- Enrolled pharmacy providers will be reimbursed for vaccine cost and administration when administered to eligible members. Pharmacies will bill NYRx using the National Council on Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) D.0 format.

For more information, see [NYRx Coverage of the 2026-2027 Influenza Vaccine](#).



[Top ↑](#)

## NYRx, Medicaid Pharmacy Program Pharmacists as Immunizers

NYRx, the New York Medicaid Pharmacy Program, provides the resource, [Pharmacists as Immunizers – Quick Reference April 2026](#), to support best practices for accurate vaccine claim submission and to serve as a reminder of program policies.

The full resource linked below describes:

- Billing vaccines by either NDC (preferred) or procedure codes.
- Updated coverage guidance of vaccines that can be administered to NYS Medicaid members.
- Requirements for Medicaid Managed Care members, members younger than 19 years of age, dual-eligible members, and members residing in long-term care facilities.
- Answers to many frequently asked questions.



For more information, see the [NYRx, Medicaid Pharmacy Program Pharmacists as Immunizers Fact Sheet](#).



[Top ↑](#)

## NYRx Cost Optimization Program Update

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Cost Optimization Program, helps 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.

Effective **September 10, 2026**, the following drugs were **added** to the Cost-optimization program and will require a Manual Review by NYRx for coverage approval:

- |                                     |                                                               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| • baclofen 15 mg tablet             | • Duloxetine 80 mg, 90 mg, 120 mg capsule                     |
| • benzonatate 150 mg capsule,       | • gabapentin 200 mg capsule                                   |
| • bupropion XL 450 mg tablet        | • meclizine 50 mg tablet                                      |
| • buspirone 5 mg capsule            | • naproxen/esomeprazole 375-20 mg, 500-20 mg tablet           |
| • buspirone 2.5 mg, 12.5 mg tablet  | • omeprazole/sodium bicarbonate 20-1680 mg, 40-1680 mg packet |
| • diflorasone 0.05% cream           | • tazarotene 0.05%, 0.1% gel                                  |
| • Doxycycline hyclate 75 mg capsule | • ursodiol 150 mg capsule                                     |

For the most updated list, see [NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Cost Optimization Program Update](#).



[Top ↑](#)

## NYRx Medicaid Pharmacy Prior Authorization Programs Update

The New York State Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB) recommended changes to NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program.

Effective **October 22, 2026**:

Prior authorization (PA) requirements will change for drugs in the following Preferred Drug Program (PDP) classes:

- Antibiotics, Inhaled
- Antibiotics, Vaginal (New PDP drug class)
- Lipotropics, Other (New PDP drug class)
- Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) Agents, Other
- Immunomodulators & Related Agents, Topical
- Glucagon Agents
- Growth Hormone
- Insulin, Rapid Acting
- Hemophilia Agents, Other
- Immunomodulators, Systemic

Drug utilization review (DUR) criteria will be added to the following drug classes for the treatment of headache:

- Butalbital-Containing Agents
- Ergotamine Derivatives

For more information, see [NYRx Medicaid Pharmacy Prior Authorization Programs Update](#).



[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 ↑](#)

## 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 ↑](#)

# Weekly Webinars

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

|                                                                  |                                                                   |                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Prescriber Webinar</a><br>Mondays<br>12 PM – 1 PM ET | <a href="#">Pharmacy Webinar</a><br>Wednesdays<br>12 PM – 1 PM ET | <a href="#">NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program</a><br>Fridays<br>12 PM – 1 PM ET |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

[Top ↑](#)

## 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 ↑](#)