

NYRx Education & Outreach Month in Review Newsletter

January 2026



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Welcome!

As we wrap up the month of December, we'd like to highlight these activities from the past month. In this issue, you'll find links to new and updated information from NYRx Education & Outreach and the New York State Department of Health.

New & Updated Publications

NYRx Education & Outreach Publications

- [NYRx Preferred Drug List](#) – Revised December 18, 2025.
- [NYRx Preferred Drug Quick List](#) – Revised December 18, 2025.
- [NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program Update](#) – Effective December 4, 2025.
- [NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview](#) – Effective December 18, 2025. This program focuses on a specific drug trend that is primarily occurring with new formulations and dosages of older drug products.
- [NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Central Nervous System Stimulants and Other Agents for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder](#) – Revised December 18, 2025.
- [NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Short-Acting Opioids](#) – Revised December 18, 2025.
- [NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Sodium Glucose Co-Transporter 2 Inhibitors](#) – Revised December 18, 2025.
- [NYRx Drug Class Coverage Overview: Immunomodulators - Systemic and Benlysta](#) – Revised December 23, 2025.
- [NYRx Formulary Update: Trelegy Ellipta®](#) – Effective December 15, 2025. Non-preferred agent that requires a prior authorization.
- [NYRx Notice to Providers, Pharmacies, and MCOs: Early Alert - Glucose Monitor Sensor Issue from Abbott Diabetes Care](#) – Effective December 4, 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.
- [NYRx Notice to Providers: Coverage Update Phosphate Binders/Regulators](#) – Effective January 1, 2026. Drugs in the Phosphate Binders/Regulators Preferred Drug List (PDL) class are no longer be covered as a pharmacy benefit by NYRx.

- [NYRX Opioid Dependence Agents](#) – Revised December 18, 2025.

New York State Department of Health Publications

- [Attention Pharmacy Providers: Changes to Coverage of Phosphate Binders for Patients on Dialysis](#) – Effective January 1, 2026. Phosphate binder drugs for patients on dialysis are no longer be covered as a pharmacy benefit by NYRx. Phosphate binders will be provided by the member’s dialysis center.
- [Dental Policy and Procedure Code Manual](#) – Effective January 1, 2026. General policy guidance for use by dentists, dental staff, administrators, and billing agents to facilitate participation in the New York State Medicaid Dental Program.
- [Discontinued Drug Coverage for Terminated Labelers per Medicaid National Drug Rebate Agreement](#) – Effective January 1, 2026. NYRx will no longer provide coverage for drugs by manufacturers who voluntarily withdrew from participation in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (MDRP).
- [New Cost Optimization Program: Targets High-Cost Formulations / Dosages of Drug Products](#) – Effective December 18, 2025. NYRx is initiating a cost optimization program to help address increasing drug costs.
- [New York State Fee-for-Service Medicaid Program – Intermittent Urinary Catheter Updates: Description Changes, New Hydrophilic HCPCS Coding](#) – Effective January 1, 2026. HCPCS codes have been updated to remove the word “hydrophilic” and HCPCS codes for hydrophilic coated intermittent urinary catheters have been added.
- [New York State Fee-for-Service Medicaid Program – Request for Enhanced Rate for Out-of-State Medical Treatment Form](#) – Reposted December 19, 2025.
- [New York State Medicaid Dental Fee Schedule](#) – Effective January 1, 2026. Updated dental fee schedule.
- [New York State Medicaid Physician Medicine Services Fee Schedule](#) – Effective January 1, 2026.
- [New York State Medicaid Transportation Fee Schedule](#) – Updated December 22, 2025. Fee schedule for providers.
- [Pharmacists as Immunizers Fact Sheet November 2025](#) – Revised November 2025.

New York State Department of Health Press Releases

- [New York State Department of Health Announces First-Year Federal Funding to Support New York’s Rural Health Care Transformation](#) – On December 30, 2025, the New York State Department of Health announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has awarded New York more than \$212 million in 2026 to implement the state's transformative strategy to support the health and well-being of New Yorkers.
- [New York State Department of Health Confirms Most Flu Cases Ever Recorded in One Week](#) – On December 26, 2025, the New York State Department of Health announced that the state is experiencing the highest number of flu cases ever recorded in a single week and wants to remind New Yorkers that they can take simple steps to protect themselves and those around them, including getting vaccinated, staying home when sick and practicing everyday preventive measures.
- [New York State Department of Health Warns of Highly Potent Synthetic Sedative More powerful than Xylazine Emerging in Drug Checking Samples](#) – On December 19, 2025, the Department's Community Drug Checking Program detected an increase in the presence of medetomidine, a highly potent synthetic veterinary sedative not approved for human use, in the unregulated drug supply.

About Us

The NYRx Education & Outreach 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

Resources

- [NYRx E&O Publications](#)
- [NYRx E&O Website](#)
- [NYRx E&O YouTube Channel](#)
- [New York Public Health Now Podcast](#)

Contact Us

- [NYRx E&O Mailbox](#)
- NYRx E&O Call Center at 1-833-967-7310, M – F, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET, Excludes Holidays
- The NYRx E&O team is available to meet with you. To request a meeting, click [here](#).