NYRx Education & Outreach Month in Review Newsletter

November 2026



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Welcome!

As we wrap up October, 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 Billing Guidance: Non-Patient-Specific Orders – Revised October 29, 2026.
- NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program Update – Revised October 8, 2026.
- NYRx Cost Optimization Program Update – Revised October 22, 2026.
- NYRx Notice to Providers: Biologic Drugs Originator vs Biosimilar – Revised October 22, 2026.
- NYRx Notice to Providers: Cost Optimization Alternatives for Certain SSRIs and SNRIs – Published October 8, 2026.
- NYRx Notice to Providers: Medicaid Coverage of Penicillin G Benzathine – Revised October 16, 2026.
- NYRx Preferred Diabetic Supply Program – Revised October 1, 2026.
- NYRx Preferred Drug Quick List – Revised October 22, 2026.
- NYRx, the Medicaid Drug Program, Notice to Providers: Medicaid Coverage of Ifosfamide – Published October 8, 2026.
- Reminder: Upcoming Changes to the Medicaid Fee-for-Service Claim Submission Process for Practitioner-Administered Drugs – Published October 19, 2026.

New York State Department of Health Publications

- Cost Optimization Program Update: Program Additions – Effective October 22, 2026, NYRx, the Medicaid Drug Program, is updating the Cost Optimization Program to 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. Published October 23, 2026.
- Important Communication: Unlicensed Interns, Residents & Foreign Physicians in Training Programs are Authorized Prescribers for Medicaid Members – Unlicensed Interns, Residents and Foreign Physicians in Training Programs are eligible to prescribe for Medicaid members without enrollment as a Medicaid provider. Published October 13, 2026.
- NYRx Response to Executive Order #65 – On October 5, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul declared a disaster emergency in the state of New York due to an ongoing measles outbreak effective through November 4, 2026. Executive order 65.1, issued on November 4, 2026, extended the State Disaster Emergency through December 4, 2026.
- Update: NYRx Response to Executive Order #65 – Effective October 5, 2026, New York Medicaid enrolled pharmacies not enrolled in the VFC program may be reimbursed by

NYRx for the acquisition cost of the vaccine and its administration when administered to eligible members two years of age and older. Published October 23, 2026.

New York State Department of Health Press Releases

- New York State Department of Health Announces Open Enrollment for 2027 Coverage – The New York State Department of Health today announced the start of Open Enrollment for 2027 health insurance coverage through NY State of Health, the state's official Health Plan Marketplace. Open Enrollment for 2027 Qualified Health Plans runs from November 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027. Published October 28, 2026.
- New York State Department of Health Announces the Launch of a Comprehensive Seasonal Respiratory Virus Dashboard – The Department's longstanding reporting has now expanded to include a new dashboard encompassing influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), offering a more comprehensive view of respiratory illness trends statewide. The new dashboard provides a visual snapshot of laboratory-confirmed cases and hospitalizations associated with flu, COVID, and RSV, with options to view data by geographic location and track trends over time. Published October 26, 2026.

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 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.