NYRx Education & Outreach Pharmacy Newsletter

January 2026

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Welcome!

In this issue, you'll find trending topics, information about the NYRx Education & Outreach team, helpful links, calendar events, links to resources, and how to contact us.

Highlights

NYRx Education & Outreach to Present at PSSNY's Mid-Winter Convention Voices for Change: Advocacy, Access, Action

The NYRx Education & Outreach team is excited to present at PSSNY's Mid-Winter Convention. To register for the event, visit the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York 2026 Midwinter Registration.

Changes to Coverage of Phosphate Binders/Regulators for Patients on Dialysis

To align with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy (89 FR 89084), phosphate binder/regulator drugs for patients on dialysis are no longer covered as a pharmacy benefit by NYRx.

Phosphate binders/regulators are provided by the member's dialysis center. Medicaid Fee-for-Service and Medicaid Managed Care dialysis bundled payment rates will be adjusted to account for this change.

Effective January 1, 2026, new and refill claims submitted to NYRx for a phosphate binder/regulator for patients on dialysis will deny with the message "PA required." However, a PA is not available for these drugs for these patients. All providers should direct Medicaid members to their dialysis center to obtain their phosphate binder/regulator.

For more information, see NYRx Notice to Providers: Coverage Update Phosphate Binders/Regulators.

New Cost Optimization Program Targets High-Cost Formulations/Dosages of Drug Products

Effective December 18, 2025, NYRx 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 entering the market with substantially higher launch prices than equally efficacious, cost-effective alternatives.

The following drugs will now require a Manual Review by NYRx for coverage approval:

- Carbinoxamine Maleate 6 mg Tablet
- Chlorzoxazone 250 mg Tablet
- Diclofenac Potassium 25 mg Tablet

- Dolobid 250 mg Tablet
- Halcinonide 0.1% Solution
- Hydrocortisone 2.5% Solution
- Meloxicam 5 mg and 10 mg Capsule
- Metformin HCl 750 mg (IR) Tablet
- Relafen DS 1,000 mg Tablet
- Tetracycline 250 mg Tablet
- Tolectin 600 mg Tablet
- Tolmetin Sodium 400 mg Capsule

For more information, see NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview.

Updates to NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program

Effective December 18, 2025, the following changes were made to the Dispense Brand Name Drug When Less Expensive Than the Generic Program:

- Jynarque® and Ravicti® have been ADDED to the program.
- Brovana® and Dymista® have been REMOVED from the program as they are being discontinued by the manufacturer.

For more information, see NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program Update.

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

Helpful Links

- NYRx Brand Less Than Generic Program Updates
- NYRx eMedNY Formulary File
- NYRx Preferred Diabetic Supply Program
- NYRx Preferred Drug List
- NYRx Preferred Drug Quick List

Calendar

Office Hour Q&A Pop-In

Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Weekly Webinar

To register for a webinar, please visit the NYRx E&O website:

- Pharmacy Webinar Wednesday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET
- NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program Friday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

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.