

# NYRx Education & Outreach Pharmacy Newsletter

April 2026



[Welcome](#) | [Highlights](#) | [About](#) | [Quicklinks](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Resources](#) | [Contact](#)

## 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

### Attention Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers: Prohibited Prior Authorization Requests

As a reminder, third-party requests for prior authorization (PA) are prohibited; only prescribers or their authorized agent may submit a PA request. An authorized agent is employed by the same professional practice as the prescribing practitioner and has access to the patient's medical record (for example: nurse, medical assistant). The practitioner is responsible for the activities of the authorized agent. A practitioner may not outsource the authority to obtain a PA. A pharmacy may not offer to obtain PA on behalf of a practitioner. For more information, see [Prohibited Prior Authorization Requests](#).

### Pharmacists as Immunizers – Quick Reference April 2026

In accordance with New York State Education law, pharmacists who are certified to vaccinate may administer influenza vaccines to children between the ages of 2 and 18, as well as to adults 18 years of age and older. Pharmacists are also authorized to administer pneumococcal, meningococcal, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, herpes zoster, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines.

NYRx, the New York Medicaid Pharmacy Program, provides this 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. This resource goes on to describe billing vaccines by either NDC or procedure codes and answers many FAQs.

### NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program: Prior Authorization Update

Effective February 19, 2026, PA requirements have changed in the following Preferred Drug Program (PDP) drug classes:

- [Immunomodulators & Related Agents - Topical](#)
- [Immunomodulators - Systemic](#)
- [Leukotriene Modifiers](#)

The following Drug Utilization Review (DUR) program clinical criteria requirements have been implemented:

- PA is required for patients utilizing a Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitor and a Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist concurrently.

- PA is required for patients utilizing two or more Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) concurrently.
- For patients initiating an antispasmodic skeletal muscle relaxant, PA is required for a quantity exceeding a 14-day supply and up to one refill. The quantity and frequency limitations do not apply to skeletal muscle relaxants when used as spasmolytics.
- Trial of two Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) at maximally tolerated doses prior to the use of a Potassium Competitive Acid Blocker (PCAB). The recommendation does not apply to a diagnosis of Helicobacter pylori (H. Pylori).
- Elevidys is covered for male patients, four to five years of age, in compliance with all Food and Drug Administration (FDA) product safety labeling requirements.

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

### NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, launched a cost optimization program to address rising drug costs. This program focuses on a specific drug trend primarily affecting 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 specific formulations and dosages.

Effective **April 23, 2026**, the following drugs were **ADDED** to the program and 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
- **ursodiol (Reltone™)** 200 mg, 400 mg capsule

For the most current information, see [NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview](#).

## 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 New York State 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

## Quicklinks

- [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 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](#).