

NYRx Cost Optimization Program Update

July 16, 2026

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, 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 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 those specific formulations and dosages.

Pursuant to Title 18 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (NYCRR) Section 513.4(d), the ordering practitioner and dispensing pharmacy are responsible for assuring that cost-effective alternatives, which meet the member's medical needs, have been explored and are prescribed and dispensed. The use of affected formulations and dosages for the convenience of the member or prescriber is not considered medically necessary. NYRx covers medically necessary Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drugs when used for Medicaid-covered indications.

Effective **July 16, 2026**, the following drugs will **require a Manual Review by NYRx** for coverage approval:

- cephalexin 750 mg capsule, 250 mg, 500 mg tablet, clindamycin/benzoyl peroxide 1.2%-3.75% gel, clindamycin phosphate 1% foam (Evoclin), clindamycin/tretinoin 1.2%-0.025% gel, clonidine hcl 0.05 mg tablet, dexamethasone (dexylt) 0.25 mg tablet, doxycycline monohydrate 75 mg, 150 mg capsule, Fenofibrate 50 mg, 150 mg capsule (Lipofen), fenoprofen 400 mg capsule (Nalfon), Fenoprofen 600 mg tablet (Nalfon), folic acid (Quiofic) 0.2 mg/mL solution, glipizide 15 mg tablet, granisol 2mg/10 mL solution, halobetasol 0.05% foam, indomethacin 25 mg/5 mL suspension, ketoprofen 200 mg ER capsule, Neo-Synalar 0.5%-0.025% cream, tazarotene foam (Fabior), tolmetin sodium 200 mg tablet will be **ADDED** to the program.

NYRx Manual Review Required

Drugs	
Accrufer® 30 mg capsule	halobetasol 0.05% foam , lotion
amcinonide 0.1% cream	hydrocortisone 2.5% solution
Arynta™ 10 mg/mL solution	ibuprofen 300 mg tablet
Atmeksi® 750 mg/5 mL suspension	indomethacin 25 mg/5 mL suspension
baclofen 5 mg/5 mL, 10 mg/5 mL solution	Javadin™ 0.02 mg/mL solution
bupirone 7.5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg capsule	ketoprofen 75 mg capsule, 200 mg ER capsule
carbinoxamine maleate 6 mg tablet, 4 mg/5mL solution	lactulose 10 g, 20 g packet
cephalexin 750 mg capsule, 250 mg, 500 mg tablet	Lurbiro™ 100 mg tablet
chlorzoxazone 250 mg tablet	meloxicam 5 mg, 10 mg capsule, 7.5 mg/5 mL suspension
citalopram 30 mg capsule	Metaxalone 640 mg tablet
clindamycin/benzoyl peroxide 1.2%-3.75% gel	metformin HCl 625 mg, 750 mg (IR) tablet
clindamycin phosphate 1% foam (Evoclin), gel (Clindagel)	methocarbamol 1000 mg tablet
clindamycin/tretinoin 1.2%-0.025% gel	metoprolol 12.5 mg tablet
clobetasol 0.025% cream	naproxen CR/ER tablet
clonidine hcl 0.05 mg tablet	Neo-Synalar 0.5%-0.025% cream
desloratadine 0.5 mg/mL solution	Nitrofurantoin 50 mg/5 mL suspension
Desmoda™ 0.05 mg/mL solution	Ontralfy™ 2 mg/5 mL solution
Desvenlafaxine ER 50 mg, 100 mg tablet (GCN 34470, 34482)	orphenadrine-aspirin-caffeine tablet
dexamethasone (dexylt) 0.25 mg tablet	oxaprozin 300 mg capsule
dexchlorpheniramine 2 mg/5 mL solution	Pokonza™ 10 mEq, 15 mEq packet
diclofenac potassium 25 mg capsule, tablet	prednisone DR 1 mg, 2 mg tablet
dicyclomine 40 mg tablet	Prenatal vitamins (select – see chart below)
diflunisal 250 mg, 375 mg tablet	ranitidine 150 mg, 300 mg tablet
doxycycline hyclate 50 mg tablet, monohydrate 75 mg, 150 mg capsule	Relafen® DS 1000 mg tablet
econazole nitrate 1% foam	relgaabi capsule
ergotamine tartrate® 2 mg SL tablet	Sdamlo™ 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg powder
Ertaczo® 2% cream	sertraline 150 mg, 200 mg capsule
Escitalopram 15 mg capsule	tazarotene foam (Fabior)

Drugs	
Fenofibrate 50 mg, 150 mg capsule (Lipofen); fenofibrate 40 mg, 120 mg tablet	tetracycline 250 mg, 500 mg tablet
fenoprofen 300 mg, 400 mg capsule (Nalfon); Fenoprofen 600 mg tablet (Nalfon)	tizanidine 8 mg capsule
folic acid (Quiofic) 0.2 mg/mL solution	tolmetin sodium 200 mg, 600 mg tablet, 400 mg capsule
gabapentin 100 mg, 400 mg tablet	Tonmya™ 2.8 mg tablet
glimepiride 3 mg tablet	tretinoin gel micro 0.08% pump
glipizide 15 mg tablet	ursodiol 200 mg, 400 mg capsule
granisol 2mg/10 mL solution	venlafaxine besylate ER 112.5 mg tablet
halcinonide 0.1% solution, cream	

Drugs – Prenatal Vitamins	
CitraNatal® 90 DHA Combo Pack	Prenaisance Plus softgel
CitraNatal® Assure Combo Pack	Prenate DHA® softgel
CitraNatal® Bloom tablet	Prenate Elite® tablet
CitraNatal® Harmony capsule	Prenate Enhance® softgel
CitraNatal Rx tablet	Prenate Essential® softgel
EnBrace HR® softgel	Taron™-Prex Prenatal DHA capsule
Nestabs® One softgel	Tristart DHA softgel
PNV-DHA + Docusate softgel	Vitafol® -One capsule
Prenaisance capsule	

Note: The drugs in this list have FDA-approved, safe, and effective alternatives for their common uses. Prescribers may consider alternatives using the [Medicaid Pharmacy List of Reimbursable Drugs](#). Not all drugs listed are on the [NYRx Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#). However, those that are will have a superscript of **MR** to indicate manual review. This list is subject to change. For the most up-to-date list of drugs, see the [NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview](#).

Beginning July 16, 2026, the above drugs will reject with National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Reject Code “75-MR, Manual Review Required.” These drugs will not be approvable by Prime. A Manual Review by the New York State Department of Health will be required. Claims with an existing prior authorization will also reject with NCPDP Reject Code “00254-Service Code Not Equal to PA.”

If a prescriber has determined that one of these drugs is the only appropriate treatment for a Medicaid member, they must submit a letter of medical necessity and supporting documentation for a review of coverage, via fax to 1-518-473-5508. Supporting documentation must include peer-reviewed literature and chart notes that justify why the prescribed formulation/dosage is medically necessary.

Resources

- [NYRx Cost Optimization Program Overview](#)
- [NYRx Education & Outreach Website](#)
- [NYRx Preferred Drug List](#)

Contact Information

The NYRx Education & Outreach Call Center is available by phone at 1-833-967-7310 or by email at NYRxEO@primetherapeutics.com from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

The NYRx Education & Outreach team hosts virtual office hours every week for stakeholders to ask questions related to NYRx and care coordination. Visit the [NYRx Education & Outreach website](#) for more information.