

NYRx Notice to Providers: Acne Agents, Topical

September 23, 2026

The following Acne Agents, Topical have been added to the [NYRx Cost Optimization Program](#):

- clindamycin/tretinoin 1.2%-0.025% gel
- tazarotene (Fabior®) 0.1% foam, 0.05%, 0.1% gel
- tretinoin gel micro 0.08% pump

Drugs added to the NYRx Cost Optimization Program have entered the market with **substantially higher** launch prices than equally efficacious, cost-effective alternatives. They lack additional clinical utility, while others lack clear medical necessity for those specific formulations and dosages. These drugs will now require a Manual Review by NYRx for consideration of coverage approval.

Some covered alternatives options include:

Drug Name	Cost-Optimization Medication	Preferred Covered Alternative Medications
clindamycin/tretinoin	1.2%-0.025% gel	clindamycin phosphate 1% gel (generic Cleocin T®) tretinoin cream, gel (generic Retin-A)
tazarotene	0.1% foam (Fabior), 0.05%, 0.1% gel	0.1% cream
tretinoin	gel micro 0.08% pump	tretinoin cream, gel (generic Retin-A)

Pharmacies: Please process a claim for the appropriate formulation of medications to prevent any delay in care for New York Medicaid members.

Additional clinically- and cost-effective options are available on the [NYRx Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#).

Preferred drugs will not require prior authorization if the required coverage parameters are found in the member’s Medicaid claim history at the time of pharmacy claim submission.



Preferred Drugs	Non-Preferred Drugs	Coverage Parameters
V. Dermatologic Agents		
Acne Agents, Topical		
adapalene/benzoyl peroxide (gen Epiduo®) adapalene cream adapalene OTC gel tazarotene cream 0.1% CC tretinoin cream, gel (gen Retin-A) CC	adapalene Rx gel, gel pump adapalene/benzoyl peroxide (gen Epiduo® Forte) Aklief® clindamycin/tretinoin CC, MS dapsona Differin® cream, gel pump, lotion, OTC gel Epiduo® Forte gel pump Fabior® CC, MS sulfacetamide tazarotene cream 0.05% CC tazarotene foam (gen Fabior®) CC, MS tazarotene gel CC, MS tretinoin gel (gen Atralin) CC tretinoin micro CC, MS Twynéo® Winlevi®	CLINICAL CRITERIA (CC) Confirm diagnosis of FDA-approved or compendia-supported indication and Medicaid covered indication

Resources

- [NYRx Education & Outreach Website](#)
- [NYRx Preferred Drug List](#)
- [NYRx Preferred Drug Quick List](#)
- [NYRx Prior Authorization Submission Guide](#)

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.