



Notice for Upcoming Over-The-Counter Coverage Changes

As part of the commitment to enhancing patient care, NYRx the New York Medicaid Pharmacy Program, has recently conducted a thorough review of over-the-counter (OTC) medication utilization and their clinical effectiveness. This review is in response to a recent amendment to New York State Social Services Law 365-A, effective October 1, 2024. These changes are meant to promote the use of safe, effective, and medically necessary FDA-approved non-prescription drugs for NYRx members. During the October 25, 2024, Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Meeting, the DUR Board reviewed and approved coverage changes listed below. Effective 4/1/2025, NYRx will remove the following products from the List of Reimbursable Drugs:

- **Cough and Cold Products:**
 - Oxymetazoline
 - Phenylephrine
- **Gastrointestinal Products:**
 - Simethicone
- **Anti-hypoglycemics:**
 - Glucose Tablets
- **Dermatologicals:**
 - Neomycin
 - Bacitracin
- **Multivitamins:**
 - For members aged 21 years and up

Impact on Providers and Patients

- **Transition to Alternative Therapies:** Providers are encouraged to discuss these changes with their patients. Alternative treatment options are available for medically necessary use. For example, alternatives to oxymetazoline or phenylephrine may include other decongestants or nasal corticosteroids that offer more effective management of nasal congestion.
- **Patient Education:** NYRx has notified members of these changes. Additionally, provider education to patients about these formulary changes is helpful and provide safer and more effective alternatives. Ensuring that patients understand the rationale behind these changes and the benefits of alternative therapies is essential for a smooth transition.
- **Adjusting Prescribing Practices:** Given these changes, providers may need to modify their prescribing practices. Staying informed about which medications remain covered and considering the most appropriate therapies for patients' needs will be crucial. The New York Medicaid list of reimbursable drugs is available online at: <https://www.emedny.org/info/formfile.aspx>

NYRx is committed to continuously monitoring medication utilization and effectiveness to ensure that the OTC formulary remains aligned with evidence-based practices.

DUR Program information: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/dur/
Questions about this policy change can be emailed to: NYRx@health.ny.gov