



PHARMACY

Notice for Upcoming Over-The-Counter Coverage Changes

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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. The Commissioner of Health has reviewed and approved the NYS Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board recommendations.

Effective April 1, 2025, coverage will change for the following OTC products.

- **Products being removed from the *List of Medicaid Reimbursable Drugs*:**
 - OTC nasal products containing oxymetazoline,
 - OTC oral products containing phenylephrine,
 - OTC oral products containing simethicone,
 - OTC glucose tablets, and
 - OTC topical products containing bacitracin or neomycin
- **Products that remain on the *List of Medicaid Reimbursable Drugs*:**
 - OTC multivitamins, with new age limits. **Coverage will only be available to members less than twenty-one years of age.**

Pharmacy Claim Edit Denial

Edit #	Edit Description	NCPDP Reject Message
02353	NDC excluded from State Plan coverage	"70": NDC not covered
00551	Item not eligible for payment in fill date	"MR": Product not on formulary

*Claims will deny for one of the following edits. The Department is working on a future configuration to limit to one edit response.

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 to 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:** 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 State**

Department of Health List of Medicaid 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

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