

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Amir Bassiri, Medicaid Director, Office of Health Insurance Programs

SUBJECT: Upcoming Over-the-Counter Coverage Changes for NYRx

ATTACHMENT: N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2025

CONTACT PERSON: NYRx the Medicaid Pharmacy Program
(518)486-3209

This General Information System (GIS) message is to notify the Local Districts about the upcoming changes to the over-the-counter drugs covered under NYRx, the Medicaid Pharmacy Program.

NYRx Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug Changes

As part of the commitment to enhancing patient care, NYRx, the New York State (NYS) Medicaid Pharmacy program, conducted a thorough review of OTC medication utilization and clinical effectiveness. This review addresses a recent amendment to NYS Social Services Law §365-A, found at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/SOS/365-A>, which took effect **October 1, 2024**.

Effective April 1, 2025, following a 60-day notification for Medicaid members, the items listed below are not covered by NYRx. These changes encourage NYRx members to use safe, effective, and medically necessary Food and Drug Administration (FDA)- approved prescription and non-prescription 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
- *This does not apply to prenatal multivitamins.

Member Notification(s):

The Department posted a notice on January 27th to the emedNY member and DOH websites. Please see the links below.

- Member website: <https://member.emedny.org/pharmacy/notices>
- DOH website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/pharmacy_transition/consumers/notices.htm

On February 12th and 13th, the NYSOH Marketplace notified members via text and WhatsApp to review the member website, which outlines these changes. The text message instructs members to visit the DOH website to review the changes.

*“A message from NYRx: NYRx is your Medicaid pharmacy benefit. It covers prescription drugs, supplies, and some over-the-counter items. NYRx updates are shared on health.ny.gov/NYRxMemberNotices under **Member Notices**. Reply STOP to cancel texts. Msg&Data rates may apply.*

Resources:

- eMedNY Member website: <https://member.emedny.org/>
- For detailed information about the NYS Medicaid DUR Board, providers should refer to the NYS Department of Health's “Drug Utilization Review (DUR)” web page, located at: http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/dur/index.htm.
- NYS Medicaid List of Reimbursable Drugs: <https://www.emedny.org/info/formfile.aspx>