

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: August 1, 2025

CONTACT PERSON: NYRx the Medicaid Pharmacy Program
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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**. NYRx, as part of this legislation initiative, is continuing with the following changes.

Effective August 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.

- Bismuth subsalicylate-containing products (Pepto-Bismol®)
- Carbamide peroxide-containing products (Debrox®)
- Menthol containing products (Bengay®, Icy Hot®)

Member Notification(s):

The Department posted a notice on May 28th to the DOH websites and the NYRx member website. 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 July 7th, the NYSOH Marketplace will notify 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: Reminder! NYRx is part of your NY Medicaid. It covers prescription drugs and 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>