

# Essential Drug List

## Medication alternatives



The Essential Drug List is a list of prescription medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We've reviewed these drugs through our Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Process, which considers a drug's:

- Effectiveness
- Safety
- Similarity to other drugs within a therapeutic class
- Affordability

The Essential Drug List is a closed formulary, which means that only the prescription drugs on the list will be covered by the plan. Drugs that aren't covered have cost-effective, high-quality alternatives available. There may be a brand alternative, a generic equivalent or an over-the-counter (OTC) option. Brand-name drugs with a generic equivalent available aren't covered on the Essential Drug List.

Some common drugs that aren't on the Essential Drug List are shown below. Other preferred alternatives may also be available. Please note, exclusions and limitations may apply. For details about what's covered and what's not, it's best to check the Certificate/Evidence of Coverage or Summary Plan Description (SPD).

To view and search the complete Essential Drug List, members should log in at [anthem.com](http://anthem.com) and choose **Prescription Benefits**. Information on dosage/strength options and any restrictions such as quantity limits, prior approval or step therapy requirements is available. Members can also call Member Services at the number on their ID card.

### What if a medication isn't on the Essential Drug List?

There may be times when a member's drug isn't on the Essential Drug List. If the covered alternative options aren't right for a member, their doctor can submit a request for an exception. This process, called prior authorization, requires the doctor to call the Member Services number on the member's ID card or go to [anthem.com/pharmacyinformation](http://anthem.com/pharmacyinformation) to download and submit the prior authorization form.

Doctors can also submit prior authorizations electronically, which requires less processing time and possible real-time approval so members can fill their prescriptions right away.

**For the most up-to-date information, members should log in at [anthem.com](http://anthem.com) and choose Prescription Benefits.**

Drug class	Medications not on the Essential Drug List	Preferred alternatives
Acne – antibiotic	Acticlate, Doryx, Oracea, Solodyn, Vibramycin, Ximino ER	Generic minocycline and doxycycline products
Allergic Reaction Treatment	Adrenaclick, Auvi-Q, Epinephrine auto-injector (Impax and Lineage), EpiPen, EpiPen JR	Epinephrine auto-injector (Authorized generic EpiPen from Mylan)
Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	Focalin XR	Adderall XR, dexamethylphenidate ER, Vyvanse
Allergies – antihistamines	Karbinal ER, levocetirizine	desloratadine, Zytec solution OTC*, cetirizine*, fexofenadine*, loratadine*
Blood modifiers	Epogen, Mircera	Procrit, Aranesp
Cholesterol	Altoprev, Crestor, Liptruzet, Livalo	atorvastatin, ezetimibe, ezetimibe/simvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin
Diabetes – insulin	Admelog, Basaglar, Afrezza, Apidra, Fiasp, Novolin, Novolog, Tresiba	Humulin, Humalog, Lantus, Levemir, Toujeo
Diabetes – biguanides	Fortamet (brand and generic), Glumetza (brand and generic), Riomet	metformin, metformin ER (generic Glucophage XR)
Diabetes – DPP4 combo	Kazano, Kombiglyze XR	Janumet/XR, Jentadueto
Diabetes – DPP4s	Nesina, Onglyza	Tradjenta, Januvia
Diabetes – GLP1s	Tanzeum	Bydureon, Byetta, Ozempic, Trulicity, Victoza
Diabetes – SGLT2/combo	Farxiga, Glyxambi, Invokana, Invokamet/XR, Qtern, Segluromet, Steglatro, Steglujan, Xigduo XR	Jardiance, Synjardy/XR
Diabetes – test strips	All except OneTouch & Accu-check	OneTouch & Accu-check
Erectile dysfunction	Levitra, Staxyn, Stendra	Cialis, sildenafil citrate (generic Viagra)
Gastrointestinal – PPIs	Dexilant, lansoprazole/ODT, pantoprazole	Nexium*, omeprazole
Growth hormone	Genotropin, Norditropin, Omnitrope, Saizen, Tev-Tropin, Zomacton	Humatrope, Nutropin AQ
Hepatitis C – genotype 1	Harvoni, Viekira Pak/XR, Olysio	Mavyret, Sovaldi, Eplclusa

Drug class	Medications not on the Essential Drug List	Preferred alternatives
<b>Immunologicals</b>	Actemra, Cimzia, Cosentyx, Orencia, Otezla, Xeljanz	Enbrel, Humira, Simponi
<b>Migraines</b>	Frova, Relpax	frovatriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan
<b>Multiple sclerosis</b>	Aubagio, Copaxone, Extavia, Rebif, Tysabri	Avonex, Betaseron, Gilenya, glatiramer, glatopa, Plegridy, Tecfidera
<b>Nasal steroids &amp; combos</b>	Beconase AQ, flunisolide, Nasonex, Omnaris, Qnasl, Xhance, Zetonna	Dymista, mometasone nasal spray, OTC nasal steroids such as Flonase Allergy*, Nasacort Allergy*, Rhinocort Allergy*
<b>Respiratory – anti-cholinergics</b>	Incruse Ellipta, Tudorza Pressair	Spiriva
<b>Respiratory – anti-inflammatory</b>	Aerospan, Alvesco, Armonair, Asmanex, Pulmicort	Arnuity Ellipta, Flovent, Qvar Redihaler
<b>Respiratory – ICS/LABAs</b>	Airduo, fluticasone/salmeterol	Advair, Breo Ellipta, Dulera, Symbicort
<b>Respiratory – LABAs</b>	Arcapta, Brovana, Striverdi	Foradil, Perforomist, Serevent
<b>Respiratory – LAMA/LABAs</b>	Bevespi, Utibron	Anoro Ellipta, Combivent, Stiolto
<b>Respiratory – SABAs</b>	Proventil HFA, Ventolin HFA, Xopenex HFA	ProAir HFA, ProAir Respiclick
<b>Sedative/hypnotics</b>	Intermezzo, Rozerem, zolpidem ER	eszopiclone, zolpidem
<b>Testosterone – topical</b>	Androgel 1%, Axiron, Fortesta, Natesto, Testim, Testosterone Gel 1% (brand versions**), Vogelxo	testosterone gel 1% (generic versions***), testosterone gel 30mg/1.5ml, Androgel 1.62%, levothyroxine
<b>Thyroid</b>	Synthroid, Tirosint	

\*OTC - Available over the counter without a prescription required

\*\* Qualitest and Upsher Smith

\*\*\*Actavis, PAR, Perrigo and Prasco

#### Common medications not on the Essential Drug List (in alphabetical order)

Actemra	Copaxone	Incruse Ellipta	Oracea	Testim
Acticlate	Cosentyx	Intermezzo	Orencia	Testosterone Gel 1% (Qualitest and Upsher Smith)
Admelog	Crestor	Invokamet/XR	Otezla	Tev-Tropin
Adrenaclick	Dexilant	Invokana	pantoprazole	Tirosint
Aerospan	Diabetic test strips – all except OneTouch & Accu-chek	Karbinal ER	Proventil HFA	Tresiba
Afrezza	Doryx	Kazano	Pulmicort	Tudorza Pressair
Airduo	Epinephrine auto-injector (Impax and Lineage)	Kombiglyze XR	Qnasl	Tysabri
Altprev	EpiPen	lansoprazole/ODT	Qtern	Utibron
Alvesco	EpiPen JR	Levitra	Rebif	Ventolin HFA
Androgel 1%	Epogen	levocetirizine	Relpax	Vibramycin
Apidra	Extavia	Liptruzet	Riomet	Viekira Pak/XR
Arcapta	Farxiga	Livalo	Rozerem	Vogelxo
Armonair	Fiasp	Mircera	Saizen	Xeljanz
Asmanex	fluticasone/salmeterol	Natesto	Segluromet	Xhance
Aubagio	Focalin XR	Nesina	Solodyn	Xigduo XR
Auvi-Q	Fortamet (brand and generic)	Norditropin	Staxyn	Ximino ER
Axiron	Fortesta	Novolin	Steglatro	Xopenex HFA
Basaglar	Frova	Novolog	Steglujan	zolpidem ER
Beconase AQ	Genotropin	Olysio	Striverdi	Zomacton
Bevespi	Glumetza (brand and generic)	Omnaris	Stendra	
Brovana	Glyxambi	Omnitrope	Synthroid	
Cimzia	Harvoni	Onglyza	Tanzeum	

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