

Medication alternatives

The National 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 National Drug List is an open drug list or formulary, with some closed drug classes. The list includes a broad range of drug choices – including 98% of all prescription medications.* If a medication is not on the list, there are other high-quality, cost-effective choices, called preferred alternatives, that are.

Medications not included on the National Drug List are shown on the chart included here, along with their preferred alternatives that are on the list. 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*.

To view and search the complete National Drug List, members should log in at anthem.com and choose **Prescription Benefits**. Information on dosage/strength options and any restrictions such as quantity limits, prior authorization or step therapy requirements is available. Members can also call Member Services at the number on their member ID card or visit anthem.com/pharmacyinformation.

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

There may be times when a member's drug isn't on the National Drug List. If the covered alternative options are not right for the member, doctors can submit a request for an exception. This process, called prior authorization, requires doctors to call the Member Services number on the member's ID card or go to 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 without delay.

For the most up-to-date information, members should log in at anthem.com and choose Prescription Benefits.

Drug class	Medications not on the National Drug List	Preferred alternatives ¹
Allergic Reaction Treatment	Adrenaclick, Auvi-Q, EpiPen, EpiPen JR	Epinephrine auto-injector (Authorized generic EpiPen from Mylan)
Antiviral - oral	Sitavig	acyclovir (oral solution, capsule, tablet), valacyclovir tablet
Antiviral - topical	Zovirax cream	acyclovir (ointment, oral solution, capsule, tablet), valacyclovir tablet
Constipation	Trulance	Amitiza, Linzess, Movantik
Dermatologic - acne topical	Clindagel	clindamycin phosphate (gel, lotion, solution)
Dermatologic - oral anti-infectives	Acticlate, Adoxa, Doryx, Doryx MPC, Doxycycline IR-DR 40mg Capsule, Minocin, Monodox, Vibramycin 50mg/5ml Syrup, Solodyn, Ximino ER	doxycycline hyclate, doxycycline monohydrate (immediate release), doxycycline 25mg/5ml suspension, minocycline, Oracea
Diabetes - Biguanides	Glumetza (brand and generic)	metformin ER (generic Glucophage XR)
Diabetes - DPP4s	Alogliptin, Alogliptin/metformin, Kazano, Kombiglyze XR, Nesina, Onglyza	Januvia, Janumet/XR, Tradjenta, Jentadueto
Diabetes - GLP1s	Adlyxin, Tanzeum	Byetta, Bydureon/Pen, Ozempic, Trulicity, Victoza
Diabetes - long-acting insulin	Basaglar, Tresiba	Lantus, Levemir, Toujeo

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Drug class	Medications not on the National Drug List	Preferred alternatives ¹
Diabetes – rapid-acting insulin	Admelog, Apidra, Fiasp, Novolin, Novolog	Humulin, Humalog
Diabetes – SGLT2/combo	Farxiga, Glyxambi, Invokana, Invokamet/XR, Qtern, Segluromet, Steglatro, Steglujan, Xigduo XR	Jardiance, Synjardy/XR
Diabetic Test Strips and Glucometers	All except Accu-Chek and One Touch Products	Accu-Chek and One Touch Products
Dry Eye	Lacrisert	Xiidra
Erectile dysfunction	Levitra, Staxyn, Stendra	Cialis, sildenafil citrate (generic Viagra)
Growth hormone	Genotropin, Norditropin, Omnitrope, Saizen, Zomacton	Humatrope, Nutropin/AQ
Immunologicals	Actemra, Cimzia, Inflectra, Kevzara, Orencia, Tremfya, Renflexis	Enbrel, Humira, Remicade, Simponi/Aria, Stelara
Lipid/Cholesterol lowering – fibric acid	Antara, fenofibrate capsule (50mg, 150mg), Triglide	fenofibrate tablet, fenofibric acid, gemfibrozil
Lipid/Cholesterol lowering – Fish Oils (Omega-3 Fatty Acids)	Lovaza (brand and generic), Vascepa	fenofibrate, fenofibric acid, gemfibrozil
Lipid/Cholesterol lowering - statin	Lipitor	atorvastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin
Multiple sclerosis	Extavia, Rebif	Avonex/Pen, Betaseron, Plegridy
Narcotic antagonists	Evzio auto-injector	naloxone injection, Narcan
Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatories	diclofenac sodium 1.5% topical solution, Duexis, Fenoprofen capsules, Fenortho, Flector, Indocin Suppository & Suspension, klofensa, Nalfon, Naprelan CR 750mg, Pennsaid 2% Pump, Sprix, Tivorbex, Vimovo, Vivlodex, Zipsor, Zorvolex	diclofenac 1% gel, diclofenac tablet, fenoprofen tablet, ibuprofen tablet & suspension, indomethacin capsule, meloxicam tablet & suspension, misoprostol, naproxen tablet & suspension
Ophthalmologic - Antihistamine	Bepreve, Pataday, Patanol, Pazeo	azelastine, epinastine
Ovulatory Stimulants	Follistim AQ	Gonal-F
Pain management – transmucosal fentanyl	Abstral, Lazanda, Subsys	fentanyl citrate, Fentora
Pain management – narcotic analgesics	Arymo ER, Embeda, Hysingla ER, Kadian, Morphabond ER, Nucynta ER, Opana ER, Oxycodone ER, Xartemis XR, Xtampza ER, Zohydro ER	hydromorphone er, morphine sulfate er, oxycodone er
Proton Pump Inhibitors	Aciphex (brand and generic), Dexilant, Esomeprazole Strontium, Nexium (brand and generic), Prevacid/ODT (brand and generic), Prilosec, Protonix, Zegerid (brand and generic)	omeprazole, pantoprazole
Respiratory – anti-inflammatory	Aerospan, Alvesco, Armonair Respiclick, Asmanex HFA/Twisthaler, Pulmicort Flexhaler	Arnuity Ellipta, Flovent HFA/Diskus, Qvar Redihaler
Skeletal muscle relaxants	Amrix ER	cyclobenzaprine
Steroids - intranasal	Nasonex, Qnasl	mometasone
Steroids - oral	Rayos	hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisone, prednisolone
Steroids - topical low potency	Desonate gel, Tridesilon cream, Verdeso foam	hydrocortisone 2.5% (cream, lotion, ointment), alclometasone (cream, ointment)
Steroids - topical medium potency	Locoid lotion	mometasone (cream, ointment, solution), triamcinolone (cream, ointment, solution)
Steroids - topical high potency	Sernivo	betamethasone dp aug cream, fluocinonide (cream, gel, ointment, solution), triamcinolone (cream, ointment)
Testosterone – topical	Axiron, Fortesta, Natesto, Testim, Testosterone Gel 1% (brand versions ²), Vogelxo	testosterone gel 1% (generic versions ³), testosterone gel 30mg/1.5ml, AndroGel 1.62%

*Internal data, 2018

¹Please note: Preferred alternatives are on multiple tiers, depending on benefit plan. Tiers represent levels of coverage. Member cost share amounts generally increase at higher tier levels.

²Qualitest, Upsher Smith

³Actavis, PAR, Perrigo and Prasco