

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 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 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 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, 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, Retacrit
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-chek	OneTouch & Accu-chek
Erectile dysfunction	Cialis, Levitra, Staxyn, Stendra, Viagra	sildenafil citrate (generic Viagra), tadalafil (generic Cialis)
Gastrointestinal – PPIs	Dexilant, lansoprazole/ODT, pantoprazole	Nexium*, omeprazole

Drug class	Medications not on the Essential Drug List	Preferred alternatives
Growth hormone	Genotropin, Norditropin, Omnitrope, Saizen, Tev-Tropin, Zomacton	Humatrope, Nutropin AQ
Hepatitis C – genotype 1	Daklinza, Eplclusa, Harvoni, Pegasys, Sovaldi, Viekira Pak/ XR, Olysio	Mavyret
Immunologicals	Actemra, Cimzia, Orencia, Otezla	Enbrel, Humira, Simponi
Migraines	Frova, Relpax	frovatriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan
Multiple sclerosis	Copaxone, Extavia, Rebif, Tysabri	Avonex, Betaseron, Gilenya, glatiramer, glatopa, Plegridy, Tecfidera
Nasal steroids & combos	Beconase AQ, flunisolide, fluticasone, Nasonex, Omnaris, Qnasl/children, Xhance, Zetonna	OTC nasal steroids such as Flonase Allergy*, Nasacort Allergy*, Rhinocort Allergy*
Respiratory – anti-cholinergics	Incruse Ellipta, Tudorza Pressair	Spiriva
Respiratory – anti-inflammatory	Aerospan, Alvesco, Armonair, Asmanex, Pulmicort	Arnuity Ellipta, Flovent, Qvar Redihaler
Respiratory – ICS/LABAs	Airduo, Fluticasone-Salmeterol 55-14, 113-14, 232-14	Advair, Breo Ellipta, Dulera, Symbicort
Respiratory – LABAs	Arcapta, Brovana, Striverdi	Foradil, Perforomist, Serevent
Respiratory – LAMA/LABAs	Bevespi, Utibron	Anoro Ellipta, Combivent, Stiolto
Respiratory – SABAs	Levalbuterol HFA, Proventil HFA, Ventolin HFA, Xopenex HFA	ProAir HFA, ProAir Respiclick
Sedative/hypnotics	Intermezzo, Rozerem, zolpidem ER	eszopiclone, zolpidem
Testosterone – topical	Androgel 1%, 1.62%, Axiron, Fortesta, Natesto, Testim, Testosterone Gel 1% (brand versions**), Vogelxo	testosterone gel 1% (generic versions***), testosterone gel 30mg/1.5ml, testosterone gel 1.62%
Thyroid	Armour Thyroid, Synthroid, Tirosint	levothyroxine, nature-throid, westhroid

*OTC - Available over the counter without a prescription required

** Upsher Smith

***Actavis, PAR, Perrigo and Prasco

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

Actemra	Bevespi	Focalin XR	Liptruzet	Qnasl/children	Tev-Tropin
Acticlate	Brovana	Fortamet (brand and generic)	Livalo	Qtern	Tirosint
Admelog	Cialis	Fortesta	Mircera	Rebif	Tresiba
Adrenaclick	Cimzia	Frova	Natesto	Relpax	Tudorza Pressair
Aerospan	Copaxone	Genotropin	Nesina	Riomet	Tysabri
Afrezza	Crestor	Glumetza (brand and generic)	Norditropin	Rozerem	Utibron
Airduo	Daklinza	Glyxambi	Novolin	Saizen	Ventolin HFA
Altoprev	Dexilant	Harvoni	Novolog	Segluromet	Viagra
Alvesco	Diabetic test strips - all except OneTouch & Accu-chek	Incruse Ellipta	Olysio	Solodyn	Vibramycin
Androgel 1%, 1.62%	Doryx	Intermezzo	Omnaris	Sovaldi	Viekira Pak/XR
Apidra	Eplclusa	Invokamet/XR	Omnitrope	Staxyn	Vogelxo
Arcapta	EpiPen	Invokana	Onglyza	Steglatro	Xhance
Armonair	EpiPen JR	Karbinal ER	Oracea	Steglujan	Xigduo XR
Armour Thyroid	Epogen	Kazano	Orencia	Stendra	Ximino ER
Asmanex	Extavia	Kombiglyze XR	Otezla	Striverdi	Xopenex HFA
Auvi-Q	Farxiga	lansoprazole/ODT	pantoprazole	Synthroid	zolpidem ER
Axiron	Fiasp	Levalbuterol HFA	Pegasys	Tanzeum	Zomacton
Basaglar	fluticasone	Levitra	Proventil HFA	Testim	
Beconase AQ	Fluticasone-Salmeterol 55-14, 113-14, 232-14	levocetirizine	Pulmicort	Testosterone Gel 1% (Qualitest and Upsher Smith)	