

Drugs Excluded From Medicare Part D



What You Should Know

The Social Security Act designated certain drugs as exclusions from Medicare Part D coverage. Excluded drugs are not found on [Wellcare's drug formulary](#) and members who choose to obtain them may need to pay out of pocket. If medically necessary, a coverage determination request may be submitted with the provider's supporting statement, however this does not guarantee coverage.

The 3 general rules Medicare drug plans use to exclude drugs from coverage under Part D:

1. Drugs covered under Medicare Part A or Part B

- Such as drugs administered in a hospital, physician's office, or with medical equipment (e.g., insulin pump or nebulizer)

2. Drugs purchased outside the United States and its territories

3. Drugs prescribed for off-label use or a non-medically acceptable indication

- Exceptions may be allowed when the use is supported by certain reference books and peer-reviewed medical literature. These reference books are the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the DRUGDEX Information System, and the United States Pharmacopeia-Drug Information (USP-DI).

The following exclusions from coverage under Part D also apply:

Exclusions	Examples	Exceptions
Medications used for anorexia, weight loss or weight gain, even if used for non-cosmetic purpose (e.g., morbid obesity)	<i>Phentermine for weight loss</i>	Agents used for AIDS wasting and cachexia due to chronic disease (e.g., megestrol acetate)
Medications used for fertility	<i>Clomiphene to stimulate ovulation</i>	None
Medications used for cosmetic purposes or to promote hair growth	<i>Tretinoin cream for wrinkles</i>	Agents used for psoriasis, acne, rosacea, or vitiligo
Preparations used for the symptomatic relief of coughs and colds	<i>Benzonatate for cough relief</i>	Medications used to treat a medical condition that causes a cough (e.g., inhalers for asthma)
OTC items and vitamin products †	<i>Desitin® ointment for minor skin irritations</i>	Diabetes supplies (e.g., pen needles, insulin syringes, alcohol swabs); Prescription Niacin products (Niaspan®, Niacor®), fluoride preparations, prescription prenatal vitamins, and the prescription vitamin D analogs calcitriol, doxercalciferol, and paricalcitol (<i>ergocalciferol & cholecalciferol remain excluded</i>). Smoking cessation products by prescription only.
Medications used to treat erectile dysfunction (ED)	<i>Sildenafil for ED</i>	When prescribed for a medically accepted indication approved by the FDA (e.g., Cialis® for benign prostatic hyperplasia). Some plans offer enhanced drug coverage of certain drugs for ED. Please refer to your patient's specific plan details for more information.

† Items may be covered in Wellcare's OTC Catalog.

Need More Information?

More detailed information can be found in [Chapter 6 of the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual \(PDF\)](#). If you have questions, please call Provider Services at 1-855-538-0454.