

# 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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.anthem.com) and choose Prescription Benefits.**

Drug class	Medications not on the Essential Drug List	Preferred alternatives
Acne – antibiotic	Acticlate, Doryx, Oracea, Seysara, 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, Insulin Lispro, 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/combos	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, Epclusa, Harvoni, Pegasys, Sovaldi, Viekira Pak/XR, Olysio	Mavyret
Immunologicals	Actemra, Cimzia, Ilumya, Inflectra, Kevzara, Orencia, Otezla, Renflexis, Skyrizi, Tremfya	Enbrel, Humira, Remicade, Simponi/Aria, Stelara
Migraines	Frova, Relpax	frovatriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan
Multiple sclerosis	Tysabri	Avonex, Betaseron, Copaxone, Extavia, Gilenya, glatiramer, glatopa, Plegridy, Rebif, 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	Advair Diskus, Airduo, Fluticasone-Salmeterol 55-14, 113-14, 232-14	Advair HFA, Breo Ellipta, Dulera, fluticasone-salmeterol (generic Advair Diskus), Symbicort, wixela
Respiratory – LABAs	Arcapta, Brovana, Striverdi	Perforomist, Serevent
Respiratory – LAMA/LABAs	Bevespi, Utibron	Anoro Ellipta, Combivent, Stiolto
Respiratory – SABAs	Levalbuterol HFA, Proventil HFA, Ventolin HFA, Xopenex HFA	Albuterol 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

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

\*\* Upsher Smith

\*\*\*Actavis/Teva

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

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

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