Attention Pharmacy Providers: Changes to Coverage of Phosphate Binders for Patient on Dialysis effective January 1, 2026.

Effective **January 1, 2026**, to align with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy (89 FR 89084), phosphate binder drugs for patients on dialysis will no longer be covered as a pharmacy benefit by NYRx. **Phosphate binders will be provided by the member's dialysis center.** Medicaid Fee-for-Service and Medicaid Managed Care dialysis bundled payment rates will be adjusted to account for this change.

Starting January 1, 2026, new and refill claims submitted to NYRx for a phosphate binder for patients on dialysis will deny with the message "PA required" however a PA is **not** available for these drugs for these patients.

All providers should direct Medicaid members to their dialysis center to obtain their phosphate binders.

In the event of an emergency, under the discretion of the pharmacist, where a member cannot obtain a phosphate binder through a dialysis center, a pharmacy may follow the process for a Pharmacy Emergency 3-day Supply Prior Authorization by calling the NYRx Clinical Call Center 877-309-9493.

Phosphate binders for patients not on dialysis will continue to be covered by NYRx and will be subject to the NYRx Preferred Drug program coverage criteria.

Additional information:

- October Medicaid Update: Updated Implementation Date: Ambulatory Patient Group Weight Adjustment for Phosphate Binders
- CMS Guidance: Including Oral-Only Drugs in the ESRD PPS Bundled Payment
- Questions regarding this policy may be emailed to NYRX@health.ny.gov