



July 1, 2026 Pharmacy Benefit Update

Premium Formulary

Client overview and resources



July 1, 2026 Formulary Management



July 1, 2026 key formulary updates



Affordability

- **Generics** for Spiriva HandiHaler, Difucid, Premarin and other drugs will become preferred at Tier 1, delivering improved savings for your plans and members.
- Promoting the use of lower cost medications, 187 drugs will be added to the **Vigilant Drug Program** including 60 **Non-Essential Drugs** and 82 **Non-Essential Creams and Patches**. Unapproved animal-derived thyroid medications will also be added to the Non-Essential Drug List due to recent guidance from the FDA.

Specialty medication updates

- To further advance biosimilar use, select **Prolia and Xgeva biosimilars** will be preferred over the originator products at Tier 2 on our standard formularies, offering a lower net cost.

Utilization Management

Addressing appropriate usage and providing client savings through utilization management:

- New **Step Therapy** will be applied to several drugs including Zoryve foam in the dermatology class.
- **Quantity Limits** will be applied to the new categories of anthelmintics used for worm and parasitic infections, and viscosupplements used to treat knee osteoarthritis.

July 1, 2026 Formulary Update Summary

Our mission

Helping people live **healthier lives** and helping make the **health system work better for everyone**

Drug decisions	Premium
Downtiers/Additions Medications can move to a lower tier at any time throughout the year to provide members with immediate cost savings	0
Uptiers Medications that move to a higher tier because they offer less health care value, clinically and/or financially, than similar medications in their therapeutic classes	0
Exclusions A medication is only excluded when it offers no clinical value over other options in its class and its exclusion can be leveraged to achieve significant savings for our clients while preserving affordable choices for members	16

Pharmacy Care. Optimized.



New generic availability drives savings

All new generic alternatives will be Tier 1

Therapeutic class	Brand drug	Premium Formulary status	Alternatives
Anti-infective Agents	Dificid tablet	Tier 3 > Excluded	fidaxomicin tablet
Antineoplastic Agents	Tasigna capsule	Tier 3 > Excluded	nilotinib HCl capsule
Hematological Agents	Promacta powder, tablet	Tier 3 > Excluded	eltrombopag powder, tablet
Hormonal Agents	Premarin tablet	Tier 2 > Excluded	conjugated estrogen tablet



**Savings
potential**

~ \$21,209

Brand Tasigna
capsule AWP per Rx

~ \$19,513

Generic nilotinib HCl
capsule AWP per Rx

Higher-Priced Generics strategy update

Removing Spiriva HandiHaler



Used to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Drug	Current strategy	July 1, 2026 strategy
Spiriva HandiHaler	Tier 1	Excluded
tiotropium	Excluded	Tier 1



Members will be notified through letters. They may **not need a new prescription** as pharmacies should be able to automatically substitute the generic.

Preferring Prolia and Xgeva biosimilars

Optum Rx will prefer Prolia and Xgeva biosimilars with FDA interchangeability and stable market supply. We support strategies that align with our patient-first guiding principles of clinical quality, accessibility, and affordability.

Premium Formulary

Therapeutic class	Originator product	New Strategy
Osteoporosis	Prolia	Tier 2 with PA/QL Stoboclo
		Excluded July 1, 2026 Prolia, Jubbonti, Conexxence
Cancer	Xgeva	Tier 2 with PA Osenvelt
		Excluded July 1, 2026 Xgeva, Wyost, Bomynta



- Current preferred biosimilars are **lower net cost** compared to their originators.
- Members using originators will be notified and supported through their transition to a biosimilar.
- Additional preferred biosimilars will be considered for formulary inclusion, giving more options to members and providers.

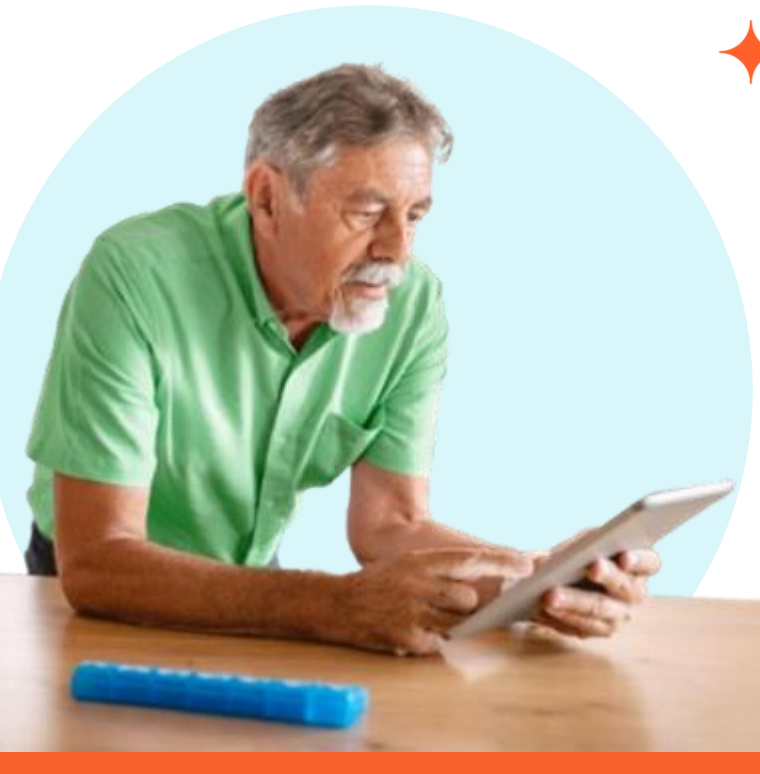
Generic Revlimid shortage resolving

Brand DAW penalties will resume July 1, 2026

Revlimid is an **oral specialty medication** used to treat various blood cancers and an **Essential Drug** on Optum Rx standard commercial formularies.



Members will be notified by letter that their cost-share may increase.



✦ Launch of generics

- Generics for Revlimid (lenalidomide) capsules launched in 2022.
- A settlement agreement between brand manufacturer Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) and several generic manufacturers included **volume-limited licenses**, meaning generics could enter the market but only restricted quantities could be sold until **Jan. 31, 2026**.

Current strategy

- With generic distribution restrictions just lifted, Optum Rx will keep the brand at Tier 2 without DAW penalties until June 30.
- The generic supply is expected to significantly increase over the next 6 months.

July 1, 2026 strategy

- Generic Revlimid will remain at Tier 1 and brand Revlimid will remain at Tier 2 on the Premium Formulary.
- To encourage generic use, a brand DAW penalty will be implemented July 1 for clients that have elected DAW penalties.

July 1, 2026 Optum Rx[®] Vigilant Drug Program[®] updates

Removing waste and shifting use to lower cost drugs through exclusions and Prior Authorizations



Program		Additions (Negative Change)	Removals (Positive Change)
Clinical Duplicate Drugs		13 products	5 products
Non-Essential Drugs		60 products	2 products
Non-Essential Drugs/Creams and Patches		82 products	0 products
High-Cost Brands with Generics		24 products	0 products
	Savings	• Excluded: Brilinta • Preferred option: ticagrelor tablet	• Cost \$559/Rx • Cost \$451/Rx
High-Cost Generics		8 products	0 products
	Savings	• Excluded: sertraline capsule • Preferred option: sertraline tablet	• Cost \$184/Rx • Cost \$97/Rx
Performance Drivers		0 products	0 products
		187 products will be added	

Moving unapproved thyroid products to the Non-Essential Drug List

As part of the Vigilant Drug Program

Adding unapproved animal-derived thyroid medications due to FDA concerns with **inconsistent doses** and **possible impurities**. Products include Adthyza, Armour Thyroid, Evexithroid, Niva Thyroid, NP Thyroid and Renthroid.



FDA announced intention to take action against suppliers of these products, and is encouraging transition to approved synthetic medications used to treat hypothyroidism.

Supply of these products is anticipated to diminish over time.

Generic options of **levothyroxine** and **liothyronine** are available on Optum Rx formularies at **Tier 1**.

2025: A dynamic year of approvals in the GLP-1/GIP space



Chronic kidney disease

Ozempic (semaglutide)

Jan. 28, 2025



MASH

Wegovy (semaglutide)

Aug. 15, 2025



Weight loss

First-time generic of
Saxenda (liraglutide)

Aug. 28, 2025



Cardiovascular risk reduction

Rybelsus (semaglutide)

Oct. 17, 2025



Weight loss and MACE

Oral Wegovy (semaglutide)

Dec. 28, 2025



Heart failure

Wegovy (semaglutide)

UPDATE: Will not be
approved



Peripheral artery disease

Ozempic (semaglutide)

UPDATE: Will not be
approved

Potential new indications on the horizon

Pending trial results and FDA submission



Alzheimer's disease

Semaglutide

Novo Nordisk

December 2025

UPDATE: Indication
no longer being
studied, primary
endpoint not met.



Osteoarthritis

Retatrutide

Eli Lilly



Psoriasis & psoriatic arthritis

Tirzepatide +
ixekizumab

Eli Lilly



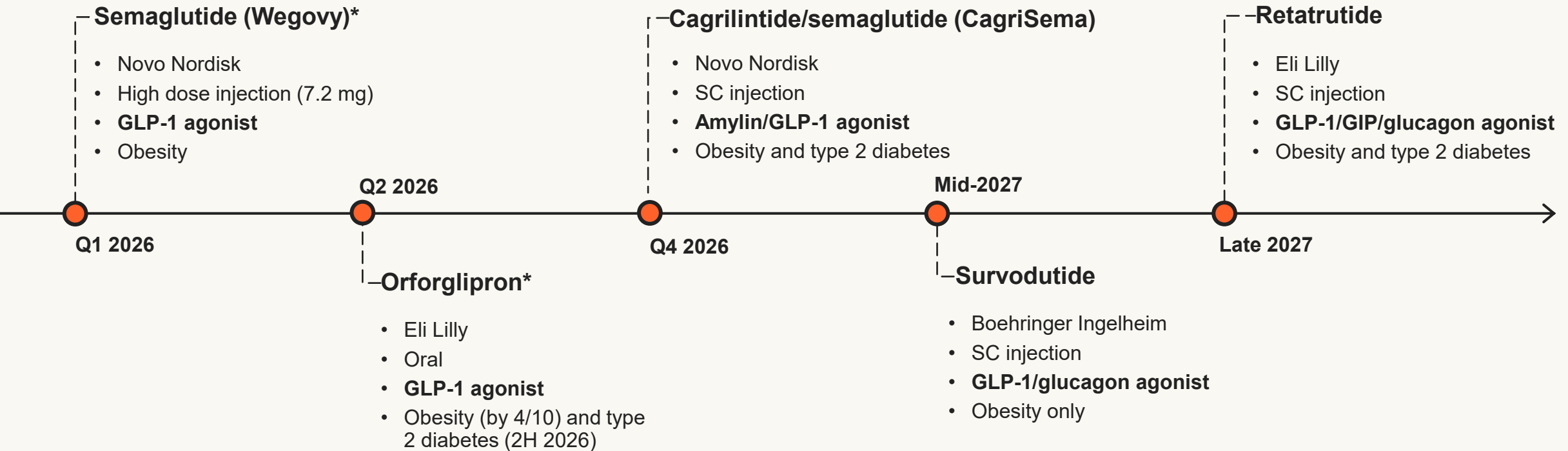
Hypertension

Orforglipron

Eli Lilly

When will we see competition?

Diabetic and non-diabetic GLP-1 new drug pipeline 2026–2027



*National Priority Review Voucher

GLP-1 price reductions

Novo reduces prices, Lilly expected to follow suit

Novo Nordisk

[Novo Nordisk recently announced](#) reductions in the U.S. list prices for Wegovy® and Ozempic® effective Jan. 1, 2027, lowering the wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for these products to \$675 per month across applicable doses.

- Products listed include Wegovy (semaglutide) injection 2.4 mg and Wegovy tablets 25 mg.
- The list price decreases represent **reductions of approximately 50% and 35% for Wegovy and Ozempic**, respectively, from the current list price.
- Changes in list price do not have an impact on direct-to-patient, self-pay prices.

Eli Lilly

While Eli Lilly has not announced list price changes for Zepbound, they did come out with a press release on new Zepbound KwikPen. The multi-dose KwikPen delivers a full month of once-weekly treatment in a single device, expanding administration options alongside existing single-dose vials and pens.

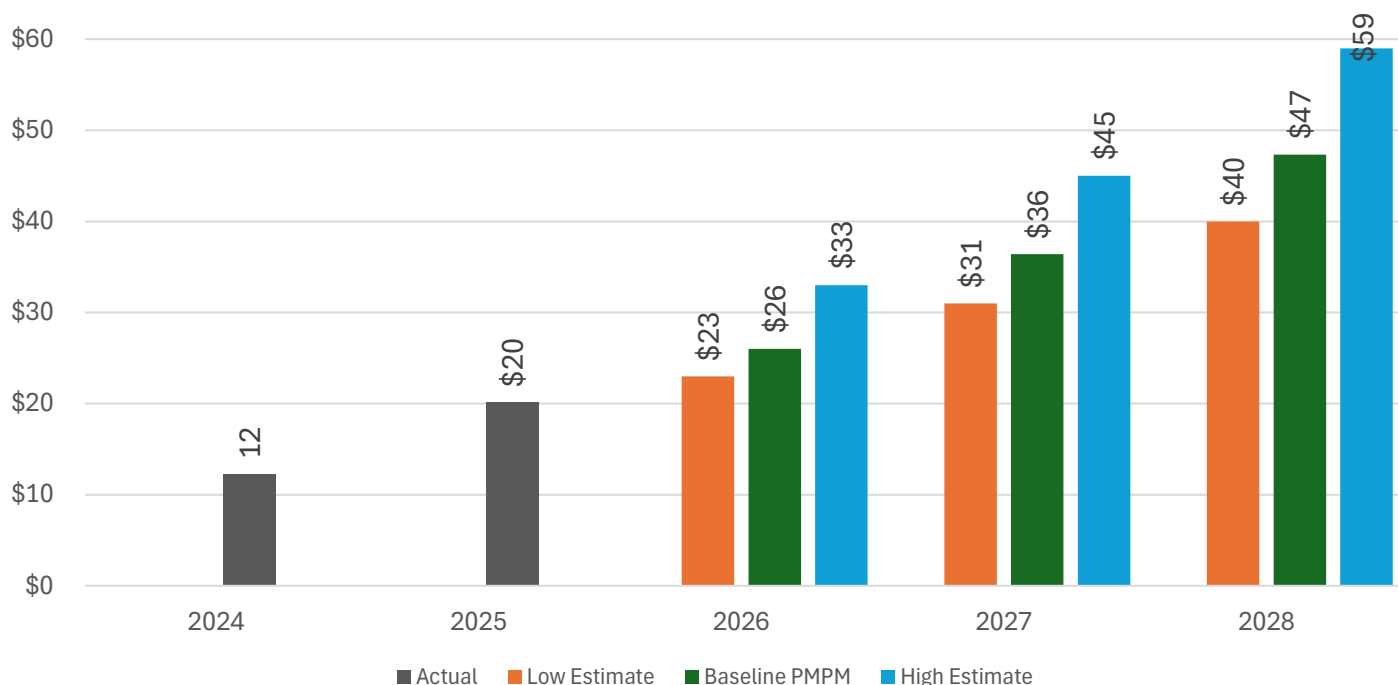
- Patients with a valid prescription who **self-pay through LillyDirect®** can access Zepbound in either the KwikPen or single-dose vial at the **same self-pay price**, starting at **\$299 per month for the 2.5 mg dose**.

Expected GLP-1/GIP growth over next 3 years

Commercial Book of Business

Non-diabetic: GLP-1/GIP Total Net Cost PMPM and Trend projection (clients w/ weight loss coverage)

Estimated values should be interpreted with a +/- margin of error



Key takeaways

Non-diabetic GLP-1/GIP trend is expected to grow faster than diabetic trend over the next 3 years

Diabetic GLP-1s/GIPs will continue to account for a greater portion of spend vs. non-diabetic GLP-1s/GIPs

Assumptions and considerations:

- Utilization, inflation, new drugs and indications
- Current prior authorization requirements maintained
- Current formulary placement maintained
- Drug market share (drug mix)

DISCLAIMER: The projections are based on assumptions and estimates with available information at the time of the analysis. They do not account for any future contracting strategy or plan design changes nor do they account for any impact pertaining to future regulatory changes. Actual experience may deviate from the projections. Optum Rx is not responsible for any decisions or outcomes that may result from the use of this report.

July 1, 2026 Utilization Management



July 1, 2026 Prior Authorization updates

Therapeutic class	Drug	New PA
Cardiology: Antihypertensive	Arbli suspension 10 mg/mL	New commercial formulary strategy adds PA criteria requiring a trial and failure, or intolerance to generic solid dosage formulations.
	Lopressor solution 10 mg/mL	
Miscellaneous: Chelating Agents	Depen tablet 250 mg penicillamine tablet 250 mg	New commercial formulary strategy to cover evidenced-based use with trial of preferred products.

PA helps ensure medication use is clinically appropriate and cost effective.



July 1, 2026 Step Therapy updates

Therapeutic class	Step 2 drugs (Requires trial of step 1)	Step 1 drugs
Central Nervous System: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Agents	Tiglutik Teglutik suspension (riluzole)	Generic riluzole
Savings potential >~\$1,000 /Rx Zoryve Foam ~\$10 to \$100/Rx Corticosteroid alternatives		
Dermatology: Topical Immunomodulators	Zoryve foam 0.3% (roflumilast)	Any one of the following topical generics: alclometasone, amcinonide, betamethasone, clobetasol, clocortolone, desonide, desoximetasone, diflorasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide, flurandrenolide, fluticasone, halcinonide, halobetasol, hydrocortisone, mometasone, prednicarbate, triamcinolone, pramoxine-HC, calcipotriene-betamethasone, tacrolimus, pimecrolimus, calcipotrine, calcitrol, tazarotene, clotrimazole, econazole, ketoconazole, luliconazole, miconazole, oxiconazole, sertaconazole, sulconazole, selenium sulfide

July 1, 2026 Quantity Limit updates

Therapeutic class	Drug	New or revised quantity limit
Anti-infectives: Anthelmintics	albendazole tab 200 mg	120 tablets per 180 days
	Biltricide tab 600 mg, praziquantel tab 600 mg	105 tablets per 180 days
	Emverm tab 100 mg	6 tablets per 180 days
	ivermectin 6 mg tab	9 tablets per 180 days
	Stromectol tab 3 mg, ivermectin 3 mg tab	18 tablets per 180 days
Oncology (Oral): Kinase and Molecular Target Inhibitors	Votrient tab 200 mg, pazopanib tab 200 mg	3 tablets per day
Respiratory: Pulmonary Fibrosis	pirfenidone tab/cap 267 mg	9 tablets per day
	pirfenidone tab 801 mg	3 tablets per day
	Ofev cap	2 capsules per day
Miscellaneous: Viscosupplements	Durolane inj 60 mg/3 mL	2 syringes per 180 days
	Euflexxa inj 20 mg/2 mL	6 syringes per 180 days
	Gelsyn-3 inj 16.8 mg/2 mL	6 syringes per 180 days

Quantity Limits

- Encourage evidenced-based use
- Promote patient safety
- Reduce waste
- Control costs



GLP-1 PA options for weight loss

	Requirement	Standard UM^	Label Based UM	Cardiometabolic UM	Risk Stratified UM
		Aligns to drug label (full rebate) Effective July 1, 2025	Aligns to drug label (lower rebate)	BMI 35+ (lowest rebate)	Higher risk patients (no rebate)
	Initial Coverage Criteria	12 months	6 months	6 months	6 months
	Use is for weight loss				
	Requires presence of obesity-related comorbidity				 (cardiovascular only)
BMI	≥27 kg/m ² w/a comorbidity				
	≥30 kg/m ²				
	≥35 kg/m ²				
	Check for duplicate GLP-1s				
	Submission of chart notes		Can add chart notes for BMI		
	Step therapy requirement (through 2 weight loss drugs for 3 months each*)				
	Lifestyle modification requirements				 (documentation of specific requirements)
	Wegovy or Zepbound claim adjudicates as covered with any weight loss GLP-1 claim in prior 90 days or ICD-10 for obesity				*Required if plan covers alternative weight loss drugs
	Reauthorization criteria	12 months	6 months	6 months	6 months
	Attestation of weight loss and no duplication of GLP-1/GIP therapy	Attestation confirming all of the following: weight loss, lifestyle intervention, and no duplication of GLP-1/GIP therapy	Attestation confirming all of the following: weight loss, BMI, lifestyle intervention, and no duplication of GLP-1/GIP therapy	Chart notes confirming all of the following: weight loss, BMI, lifestyle intervention and no duplication of GLP-1/GIP therapy	Chart notes confirming all of the following: weight loss, BMI, lifestyle intervention, adherence, maintenance dose and no duplication of GLP-1/GIP therapy. Prescriber practice check. For T2DM, must use formulary GLP-1 indicated for T2DM.
	^Can set obesity-specific cost-share up to \$150 per month .				

July 1, 2026 Communications



Client and consultant tools

Communicating formulary and UM strategies



Formulary booklets & flyers will be available later in April

Outlining all updates effective July 1, 2026.
Can be provided to members or posted on your intranet.

Ongoing client support



Pharmacy Passages

Pharmacy Passages is a monthly newsletter that provides updates on:

- Down-tiers
- New product launches
- Clinical programs



Optum Rx Benefit Central™

An enhanced, one-stop client experience for innovative and efficient plan management.

Available on the Clinical publications page:

- Clinical updates
- Drug recalls - availability
- Drug safety
- Drug approvals
- New generics

Multiple channels to reach members



Disruption letters mailed to all negatively impacted members 60 days prior to effective date. Plans can also opt-in to 30-day mailings.

Members can view
their disruption
letters in the
Documents section
on **optumrx.com**.



Emails are sent to members to let them know about alerts on Optum Rx portal. Emails include no PHI and are only sent to members that are in the cycle mailings.



Booklets

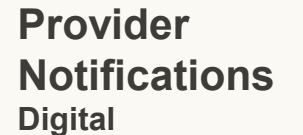
Member-friendly list of the top 450 non-specialty and 50 specialty medications based on utilization.

Member flyers

Flyers and clinical drug lists are available to announce and communicate updates to employers and members.



Formulary change alerts appear for an impacted drug on the Optum Rx portal after member login.



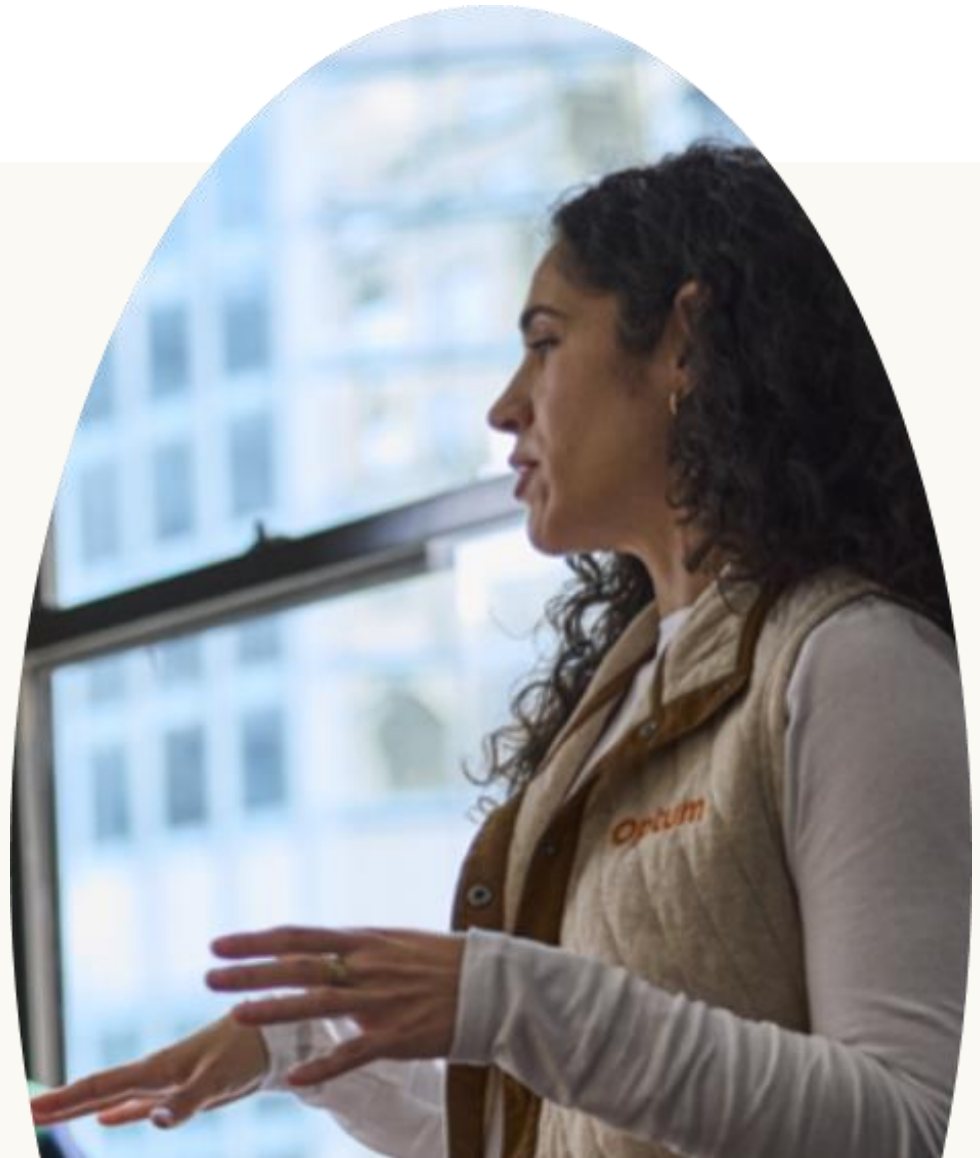
Standard offering is to post Formulary Updates for Providers | Optum 90 days prior to cycle start date

- Updated by 4.1.26 for 7.1.26 cycle
- Updated by 10.1.26 for 1.1.27 cycle

Next steps

- 1** Familiarize yourself with the July 1, 2026 Pharmacy Benefit Update.
- 2** Use the formulary and UM booklets and flyers available later in April to inform your members about changes to their pharmacy benefit taking effect July 1.
- 3** Contact your Optum Rx representative with any questions about the July 1, 2026 Pharmacy Benefit Update.
- 4** To **opt-out** of any of these updates, please contact us before:

Mar. 27



Thank you!

