

Preventive care medications

\$0 cost share medications & products^{1,2,3,5}

Effective Jan. 1, 2024



Under the health reform law (Affordable Care Act), benefit plans must cover certain preventive care medications at 100% – without charging a copay, coinsurance or deductible.

These products include:

- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force A & B Recommendation medications
- Flu shot and other vaccines

In support of this law, Optum Rx is offering this updated list of no-cost preventive care medications.

You can use your Optum Rx member ID card to get the products on this list for no cost if they are:

- Prescribed by a health care professional
- Age- and condition-appropriate
- Filled at a network pharmacy

To find a network pharmacy, log on to [optumrx.com](https://www.optumrx.com), select *Pharmacy Locator* on the right hand side of the screen and enter your zip code or call the number on your Optum Rx member ID card. If you get these medications or products from an out-of-network pharmacy, you may have to pay the full cost for them.

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force A & B Recommendation Medications and Supplements⁴

A prescription is required to get these medications and supplements at no cost - even though most are available over-the-counter (OTC).

Medication/Supplement	Reason
OTC	
Aspirin - 81 mg	Prevent preeclampsia during pregnancy
Folic acid 400 & 800 mcg Prenatal vitamins with 400 - 800 mcg of folic acid	Prevent birth defects
Bisacodyl EC Tab	Bowel preparation for colonoscopy needed for preventive colon cancer screening. Limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.
Magnesium Citrate Solution	Bowel preparation for colonoscopy needed for preventive colon cancer screening. Limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.
PEG 3350 (generic Miralax) <i>Only the OTC product may be covered at \$0 cost share. The prescription version of this product may be covered with a copay or coinsurance depending on your plan.</i>	Bowel preparation for colonoscopy needed for preventive colon cancer screening. Limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.
Prescription	
Generic Colyte sold as: PEG-3350/electrolytes Gavilyte-C	Bowel preparation for colonoscopy needed for preventive colon cancer screening. Limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.
Generic Golytely sold as: PEG-3350/electrolytes Gavilyte-G	Bowel preparation for colonoscopy needed for preventive colon cancer screening. Limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.
Generic Nulytely sold as: PEG-3350/NaCl/NaBicarbonate/KCl	Bowel preparation for colonoscopy needed for preventive colon cancer screening. Limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.
Fluoride chew tablets, drop (not toothpaste, rinses)	Prevent dental cavities if water source is deficient in fluoride

Tobacco Cessation Medications⁴

If you need help to quit smoking or using tobacco products, these preventive medications are available at \$0 cost share. Up to 180 days of treatment are covered at no cost each year. Maximum daily dose quantity limits apply. To qualify, you need to:

- Be age 18 or older
- Get a prescription for these products from your doctor, even if the products are sold over-the-counter (OTC)
- Fill the prescription at a network pharmacy

OTC Medications

Nicotine Replacement Gum

Nicotine Replacement Lozenge

Nicotine Replacement Patch

Prescriptions

Bupropion Sustained-Release Tablet

Varenicline Tablet

***These prescription medications are covered after members have tried:
1) One OTC nicotine product and 2) bupropion sustained-release separately.***

Nicotrol Inhaler

Nicotrol Nasal Spray

Breast Cancer Preventive Medications⁴

For members who are at a higher risk for breast cancer but have not had breast cancer, these preventive medications are available at \$0 cost share. To qualify, a member must:

- Be age 35 or older
- Be at increased chance for the first occurrence of breast cancer – after risk assessment and counseling
- Obtain copay waiver

Most plans cover these medications at normal cost share for the treatment of breast cancer, to prevent breast cancer recurrence and for other indications. Your doctor must submit a Health Care Reform copay waiver review form to request \$0 cost share for primary prevention, if you meet the coverage criteria. If you qualify, you can receive these drugs at \$0 cost share for up to 5 years, minus any time you have been taking them for prevention.

Breast Cancer Medications (prescription)

anastrozole

exemestane

raloxifene

tamoxifen

Statin Preventive Medications⁴

The U.S. Preventive Service Task Force recommends that adults without a history of cardiovascular disease (CVD) – symptomatic coronary artery disease or stroke – use a statin for the primary prevention of CVD events in individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Are age 40-75, **and**
- Have one or more cardiovascular risk factors (high cholesterol, diabetes, hypertension, or smoking), **and**
- Have an estimated 10-year risk of a cardiovascular event of 10% or greater.

Statin Medications (prescription)

lovastatin (generic Mevacor) – All strengths (Ages 40-75 years)

*atorvastatin (generic Lipitor) 10 & 20 mg (Copay waiver review required to confirm risk of CVD)

*simvastatin (generic Zocor) 5, 10, 20 & 40 mg (Copay waiver review required to confirm risk of CVD)

*These medications are typically covered at the customary cost share amount for your plan. Your doctor must submit a Health Care Reform copay waiver review form to request \$0 cost share for primary prevention, if you meet the above coverage criteria.

Flu shot and other vaccines

Plans must provide coverage without cost sharing for immunizations that are recommended for routine use by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a federal committee comprised of immunization experts that is convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccines may be covered by your medical benefit and not your pharmacy benefit.

Many vaccines can be obtained on a walk-in basis by presenting the Optum Rx member ID card at the time of service. Members should review their benefit plan to determine coverage for vaccines.

Routine vaccines⁶

Age restrictions or limitations may apply. Check with your network pharmacy for specific age, flu shot and vaccine requirements.

Flu Shots

Flu (Influenza)

Afluria Quad	Flublok Quad	FluMist Quad
Fluad Quad	Flucelvax Quad	Fluzone High-Dose Quad
Fluarix Quad	Flulaval Quad	Fluzone Quad

Other Vaccines

COVID-19

Dengue

Dengvaxia (copay waiver required to determine eligibility)

Hepatitis A

Havrix, Vaqta

Hepatitis B

Engerix-B, Heplisav-B, Recombivax-HB, PreHevbrio

Hepatitis A/Hepatitis B

Twinrix

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) – Vaccine prevents HPV related cancers (ages 9 - 26 years)

Gardasil 9

Measles, Mumps, Rubella

M-M-R II, PRIORIX

Meningococcal – Vaccine prevents meningitis Groups A, C, Y and W-135

Menactra, Menquadfi, Menveo

Meningococcal – Vaccine prevents meningitis Group B

Bexsero, Trumenba

Pneumococcal – Vaccine prevents pneumonia

Prenar 13, Pneumovax 23, Vaxneuvance, Pevnar 20

Poliovirus

Ipol

Tdap – Vaccine prevents tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis

Adacel, Boostrix

Td – Vaccine prevents tetanus and diphtheria

TDVax, Tenvac

Varicella – Vaccine prevents chicken pox

Varivax

Zoster – Vaccine prevents shingles

Shingrix

Ask your employer or check your plan documents for your plan's specific coverage details.

Not all vaccines on this list are available at all network pharmacies. Contact your local network pharmacy to confirm vaccine availability.

Frequently asked questions

Preventive Care Medications Coverage

What Preventive Care Medications are available at no cost?

Look at the list in this document, log on to [optumrx.com](https://www.optumrx.com), or call the number on your Optum Rx member ID card for a list of medications covered at \$0 cost share.

Please note, in order to get coverage at no cost for preventive care medications and products (including over-the-counter) you will need a prescription from your doctor.

What happens if a generic medication becomes available?

Prescription brand products may be replaced by newly launched FDA approved generic equivalents.

If I'm at risk for preeclampsia during pregnancy, how can I get low-dose aspirin for no cost?

Low-dose or baby aspirin (81 mg) is available at no cost to pregnant women at risk for preeclampsia. If you are pregnant and at risk for preeclampsia, talk to your doctor about whether low-dose aspirin can help. If so, your doctor can give you a prescription for low-dose aspirin which can be filled at no cost to you at a network retail pharmacy.

If I need to take preparation medications before a preventive colonoscopy, how can I get these for no cost?

If you are scheduled for a preventive colonoscopy, ask your doctor for a prescription for one of the no cost preparation medications. You can fill this prescription at a retail network pharmacy at no cost to you. Note: There is a limit of two \$0-cost fills per year.

What if my doctor prescribes a preparation medication for my preventive colonoscopy that is not on this list?

You can ask your doctor for a prescription for one of the medications on this list that your doctor feels would work for you. For some medical reasons, your doctor may decide you need a medication that is not on this list to prepare for your preventive colonoscopy. If so, you can request the medication you need by calling the number on your Optum Rx member ID card, and asking how to get coverage at no cost.

If you need a prescription medication to prepare for a colonoscopy that is **not preventive**, these medications may still be covered with a copayment or coinsurance.

How can I get preventive medications to help me stop using tobacco for no cost?

If you are age 18 or older and want to quit using tobacco products, talk to your doctor about medications that can help. If your doctor decides this therapy is right for you, they may prescribe a generic over-the-counter or prescription medication.

The tobacco cessation products on this list are available at no cost to you if they are:

- Prescribed by your doctor
- Filled at a network pharmacy
- Meet use and quantity guidelines

If I'm at risk for breast cancer but have not had it, how can I get preventive drugs for \$0 cost share?

If you are a member age 35 or older, talk to your doctor about your risk of getting breast cancer if you have not had it. If your doctor decides this treatment is appropriate for you, your doctor may offer to prescribe risk-reducing medications, such as raloxifene or tamoxifen. Your doctor must submit a Health Care Reform copay waiver review form to request \$0 cost share if you meet the coverage criteria.

If I'm at risk for cardiovascular disease, how can I get statin medications at no cost to me?

If you are a member age 40-75, and at risk for cardiovascular disease, your doctor may offer to prescribe statin medications. Select statins are covered at no cost share for people who have certain risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Depending on the medication, your doctor may need to submit a Health Care Reform copay waiver review form to request \$0 cost share if you meet coverage criteria.

Will this drug list change?

Drug lists can and do change, so it's always good to check. You can find the most updated information by:

- Logging in to [optumrx.com](https://www.optumrx.com), or
- Calling the number on your Optum Rx member ID card.

Frequently asked questions continued

Are the no cost preventive care medications available at both retail and home delivery pharmacies?

Preventive care medications are available at network retail pharmacies. Most are also available at the Optum® Home Delivery Pharmacy for plans with a home delivery benefit. For example, the Optum Home Delivery Pharmacy can mail a 3-month supply of your medication right to you with no cost for standard shipping. That means you can order 4 times a year instead of making 12 trips to pick up your medication. To start using home delivery, just call the number on your Optum Rx member ID card.

What if the health care reform law requirements for preventive care medication coverage change?

If the law requiring plans to provide preventive care medications at no cost changes, information on how your costs may change will be available to you by:

- Logging in to optumrx.com, or
- Calling the number on your Optum Rx member ID card.

1. Please note this list is subject to change.
2. Always refer to your benefit plan materials to determine your coverage for medications and cost share. Some medications may not be covered under your specific benefit. Where differences are noted, the benefit plan documents will govern.
3. All branded medications are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.
4. The listed age limits are based on U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendations; coverage for additional populations may also apply as required.
5. If your pharmacy benefit plan is grandfathered under the ACA, these drugs may be covered at the normal cost share.
6. Not all vaccines on this list are available at all participating pharmacies. Members should contact their participating pharmacy of choice to confirm vaccine availability.



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