

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white tank top and a light grey cardigan, is smiling and holding a red tomato. She is standing in a kitchen next to a man wearing a white shirt and a striped apron. They appear to be in conversation. The background shows a kitchen with a refrigerator, a wall outlet with a black plug, and a colander on the counter.

Our Drug List Difference

We're leading the health care industry in the way we choose medicines for our Drug List. We make decisions based on the strongest clinical drug studies. We see how drugs work in real life for our members. Plus, we partner with doctors who are national experts and have them review our Drug List. We believe we should offer medicines that do the best job for members like you.

What makes our Drug List unique

Our Drug List is a list of prescription medicines that are available to you through your benefits plan. It's made up of hundreds of brand-name and generic prescription drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Sounds simple, right? What you may not know is we don't choose just any drugs for the list. We look at more than just the prescription needs of our members – we look at the whole person. We think it's important to help you access drugs that can help you stay healthy so you can work, go to school and continue all the activities of a busy life. Offering the right drugs is the first step toward having the best health possible.

We consider drug costs only after we've looked at how well the drugs work. Our research has found that the drugs that work best may not be the least expensive drugs. That's why our Drug List includes both brand-name and generic drugs. Generics can be a great option for many people, but some medicines aren't available as generics. In that case, brand-name drugs are a good choice.

By offering a combination of brand and generic drugs, your doctor can pick the best drug for you. The right medicine can prevent complications and hospital visits – and help you stay healthy.



How we choose statin drugs for our Drug List

Cholesterol is a type of fat that's found in the blood. Statins are drugs that help lower the amount of bad cholesterol in the body. While statins help lower cholesterol, the main reason for taking them is to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Many statin drugs can lower cholesterol, but we choose statins for the Drug List that lower the risk of heart attacks and strokes. We selected a variety of generic and brand-name statin drugs for our Drug List. These statin medicines are safe, work well and offer value to you.

How we make Drug List decisions

Step 1: Clinical review and rating

First, doctors and pharmacists – who are not our employees – look at scientific research on the drugs. They use a detailed report prepared by our pharmacists to review the strongest clinical studies. This report starts with information from the FDA about each drug's approved uses, dosages and safety. The pharmacists then go beyond this data and dig into the details on how well drugs work for certain health conditions, how they compare to other drugs to treat the same conditions and how they help people do everyday tasks at home, school or work.

The doctors and pharmacists also look at information that shows how the drugs work in real life, not just in clinical trials. Finally, they look at all the data to rate which drugs may work the best for members like you.

Step 2: Cost review

Next, we look at how often doctors choose the best-rated drugs from Step 1 for their patients. Then, we review drug costs to make sure those best-rated medicines are affordable for you.

Step 3: Choosing drugs

Finally, we discuss all the information and decide which drugs should be included on the Drug List. Some members have a tiered Drug List, which assigns drugs to tiers based on their clinical ratings and costs. Costs vary by plan, but Tier 1 drugs have the lowest out-of-pocket costs. Tier 2 drugs cost a bit more. Tier 3 and Tier 4 drugs have the highest out-of-pocket costs.

Medicines that aren't on the Drug List will cost you more

If your drug isn't on the list, ask your doctor if another generic or brand-name drug on the list would be a good option for you. Medicines on the Drug List will cost you less.

We keep the Drug List up-to-date

New brand-name and generic drugs come to market all the time. That's why we update the Drug List several times a year. We make changes needed to keep the Drug List current and to make sure we include the drugs that work well. Visit anthem.com to view the Drug List.



How we choose osteoporosis drugs for our Drug List

Osteoporosis is a disease that makes bones become weak and easy to break. While all osteoporosis drugs can make bones stronger, only a few are proven to prevent breaks.

The most common types of osteoporosis drugs that help prevent breaks are called bisphosphonates. We choose only those bisphosphonates as preferred products on our Drug List that have been proven to reduce the risk of many types of fractures. We selected the two drugs that worked best in clinical studies and worked for our members in real life. Members had fewer fractures and lower drug and medical costs when they took these drugs, compared to other medicines.

