

# 2024 Essentials Drug List Formulary Exclusions

Effective July 1, 2024

Essentials Drug List keeps your pharmacy costs as low as possible by focusing on high-value drugs that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). As a result, some drugs are not covered by the pharmacy plan. These include:

- Low-value, high-cost drugs
- Drugs with lower-cost, over-the-counter alternatives
- Drugs sold at inflated prices

All excluded drugs have a therapeutic alternative. Talk with your doctor about what is right for you. In some cases, a non-prescription, over-the-counter (OTC) form of the drug may be a good choice. Please note that OTC drugs are not covered.

This list is subject to change.

- If your drug is not on this list, search for it at [premera.com](https://premera.com):  
Scroll down to Pharmacy
- Under Pharmacy, select Covered Drugs
- Navigate to 2024 Drug List for E1/E4
- Search for your drug
- If EX appears in the Drug Tier column next to your drug, the drug is excluded. Consult your doctor or pharmacist to find an alternative drug that is covered by your plan.

DRUG CATEGORY	EXCLUDED MEDICATIONS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES
<b>ANTI-INFECTIVES</b>		
Antibiotics - Inhaled	Tobi Podhaler	tobramycin inhalation ampules
Antibiotics - Oral	Avidoxy, Benzodox, Doryx DR/MPC, doxycycline hyclate tablets, doxycycline IR-DR capsules, minocycline ER tablets, Mondoxyne NL, Morgidox, Oracea, Seysara, Vibramycin, Ximino	doxycycline 50 mg & 100 mg, minocycline 50 mg, 75 mg, & 100 mg, tetracycline 250 mg & 500 mg
	Firvanq	vancomycin capsules/solution
Antifungal - Oral	Oravig, Tolsura	fluconazole, itraconazole
Antimalarial	Krintafel	mefloquine, primaquine
<b>ANTINEOPLASTIC &amp; IMMUNOSUPPRESSANT DRUGS</b>		
Antineoplastic - Oral	Jylamvo, Xatmep	methotrexate
	Siklos	hydroxyurea
	Tavalisse	Doptelet
	Vizimpro	erlotinib, Iressa, Tagrisso
Immunosuppressants - Oral	Astagraf XL, Envarsus XR	tacrolimus
<b>ANTIVIRALS</b>		
Hepatitis B	Baraclude	entecavir, lamivudine HBV
HIV	Delstrigo	efavirenz-emtricitabine-tenofovir, efavirenz-lamivudine-tenofovir
	Pifeltro	Eduvant, efavirenz, etravirine, nevirapine, nevirapine ER
<b>CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM</b>		
Anticonvulsants	Aptiom, Lamictal XR starter kits	carbamazepine, lamotrigine, levetiracetam, oxcarbazepine, pregabalin, topiramate
Antiparkinsonism Agents	Gocovri, Osmolex ER,	amantadine
	Neupro	ropinirole, pramipexole
	Rytary	carbidopa/levodopa
	Xadago, Zelapar	selegiline
Neuropathic Pain	Horizant	gabapentin
Psychotherapeutic Drugs - Antidepressants	Aplenzin ER, bupropion XL 450mg, Forfivo XL	paroxetine, bupropion SR, bupropion XL 150 mg & 300 mg, citalopram, desvenlafaxine, duloxetine, fluoxetine, sertraline, venlafaxine
Psychotherapeutic Drugs - Sedative-Hypnotic Agents	Doral, Edluar, Quazepam	estazolam, temazepam, zaleplon, zolpidem
Tardive Dyskinesia	Ingrezza	Austedo
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR</b>		
Antiarrhythmics	disopyramide 150 mg	disopyramide 100 mg
Anticoagulants	Pradaxa, Savaysa	dabigatran, Eliquis, Xarelto
Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers	Edarbi	candesartan, eprosartan, irbesartan, losartan, olmesartan, telmisartan, valsartan
Antihypertensive Therapy - Beta-Blockers	Hemangeol, Inderal XL, Innopran XL, Kapspargo Sprinkle	metoprolol, metoprolol ER, propranolol, propranolol ER
Antihypertensive Therapy - Calcium Channel Blockers	Katerzia	amlodipine
Lipid/Cholesterol Lowering Agents - Other	fenofibrate capsules, Lipofen	fenofibrate tablets

DRUG CATEGORY	EXCLUDED MEDICATIONS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES
Lipid/Cholesterol Lowering Agents – PCSK9	Praluent	Repatha
Lipid/Cholesterol Lowering Agents - Statins	Altprev, Flolipid, Zypitamag	atorvastatin, lovastatin, pitavastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin, simvastatin
<b>DERMATOLOGICAL</b>		
Acne – Oral	Absorica LD	Amnesteem, Claravis, isotretinoin, Zenatane
Acne – Topical	Altreno, Amzeeq, Arazlo, Avar-E, Avar-LS, Benzepro, benzoyl peroxide Foam, Cabtreo, Clenia Plus, Clindacin Foam, Clindacin ETZ, Clindacin Kits, clindamycin phosphate foam/gel, clindamycin/tretinoin gel, Differin lotion, Epiduo Forte, Fabior, Neuac, Plexion, Retin-A Micro Pump, Rosadan, SSS 10-5 Foam, sulfacetamide sodium-sulfur cleanser/ suspension, Sumadan, Sumaxin, Sumaxin CP, Sumaxin TS, tazarotene foam, Tazorac, tretinoin microsphere gel pump, Veltin, Zilxi	azelaic acid cream/gel, clindamycin phosphate gel/lotion/solution, erythromycin gel/solution, erythromycin-benzoyl peroxide gel, tretinoin cream/gel
Anesthetics - Topical	lidocaine-prilocain cream/kit, Lidocan III patches, Lidtopic cream, Ztlido	lidocaine ointment/patches, lidocaine-prilocaine cream
Antibiotics - Topical	Alcortin A, Centany, Centany AT, Neo-Synalar,	gentamicin cream/ointment, mupirocin cream/ointment
Antifungals - Topical	Ciclodan 0.77% cream kit, Ciclodan 8% kit, Ecoza foam, Ertaczo, Exelderm, Extina, Jublia, Kerydin, ketoconazole foam, Ketodan, Loprox Kits, miconazole-zinc oxide, oxiconazole cream, Oxistat lotion, sulconazole nitrate cream/solution, tavaborole solution, Vusion, Xolegel	ciclopirox 0.77% cream/gel/shampoo/solution/suspension, clotrimazole cream/solution, econazole cream, ketoconazole cream/shampoo, naftifine cream, nystatin cream
Antivirals - Topical	Xerese	acyclovir cream/ointment
Psoriasis - Topical	calcipotriene foam, calcipotriene-betamethasone ointment, Enstilar foam, Ovace Plus, selenium sulfide 2.3% shampoo, Sorilux foam	calcipotriene cream/ointment/solution, calcitriol ointment, selenium sulfide 2.25% shampoo, selenium sulfide lotion, sodium sulfacetamide shampoo/wash
Topical Corticosteroids (Low Potency)	Ala-Scalp lotion, Capex shampoo, Desonide gel, Scalacort, Scalacort DK, Synalar, Synalar TS, Verdeso	aclometasone cream/ointment, fluocinolone cream/oil/solution, hydrocortisone cream/ointment
Topical Corticosteroids (Medium Potency)	betamethasone 0.12% foam, clocortolone cream, Cordran cream/tape, hydrocortisone butyrate lotion, Luxiq, Pandel, triamcinolone spray, Trianex, Triderm	betamethasone valerate cream/lotion, fluocinolone cream/ointment, fluticasone cream/ointment, hydrocortisone valerate cream/ointment, mometasone cream/ointment, triamcinolone cream/lotion/ointment
Topical Corticosteroids (High Potency)	Apexicon E, desoximetasone spray, diflorasone cream, halcinonide cream, Halog, Sernivo, Triderm	betamethasone dipropionate cream/lotion/ointment, triamcinolone 0.5% cream/ointment
Topical Corticosteroids (Very High Potency)	Bryhali, clobetasol foam, Clobex, diflorasone ointment, halobetasol foam, Impoyz, Tovet, Ultravate	betamethasone augmented DP ointment, halobetasol cream/ointment
Topical - Miscellaneous	doxepin cream, Zonalon	betamethasone dipropionate cream/lotion/ointment, triamcinolone cream/lotion
	Carac, imiquimod cream pump, Veregen, Zylcara	imiquimod cream
	Condylox	podofilox solution, urea cream/gel
	Fluoroplex	fluorouracil solution
	Noritate, Rosadan Kit	azelaic acid gel, metronidazole cream/gel/lotion
	Ovace Plus	Sulfacetamide Sodium
	Qbrexza, Sofdra	Drysol

DRUG CATEGORY	EXCLUDED MEDICATIONS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES
<b>DIABETES</b>		
Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP4) Inhibitors (and combinations)	Alogliptin, Alogliptin-Metformin, Alogliptin-Pioglitazone, Kazano, Nesina, Oseni	Janumet, Janumet XR, Januvia, Jentadueto, Jentadueto XR, Tradjenta
Glipizide	Glipizide 2.5 mg	glipizide 5 mg & 10 mg
Insulin	Admelog, Afrezza, Apidra, Humalog, Humalog Jr, Humalog Mix, Humulin 70/30, Humulin N, Humulin R 100 unit/mL, Insulin Lispro	Fiasp, Insulin Aspartate, Lantus, Levemir, Novolin 70/30, Novolin N, Novolin R, Novolog, Novolog Mix, Toujeo, Tresiba
Metformin	metformin ER (generic versions of Fortamet and Glumetza), metformin 625 mg tablets	metformin, metformin ER (generic version of Glucophage XR)
Sodium Glucose Transporter 2 (SGT2) Inhibitors (and combinations)	Invokamet, Invokamet XR, Invokana	Farxiga, Jardiance, Synjardy, Synjardy XR, Xigduo XR
<b>EYES/EAR/NOSE</b>		
Antiallergy - Eye	Alocril, Alomide, Zerviate	azelastine, cromolyn, epinastine, olopatadine
Antibiotic (and combinations) - Ear	Cetraxal, Cipro HC, Ciprofloxacin-Fluocinolone, Otovel	ciprofloxacin, ciprofloxacin-dexamethasone, ofloxacin
Antibiotic - Eye	Ciloxan	ciprofloxacin
Anti-inflammatory (NSAID) – Eye	Acuvail, Nevanac	bromfenac, diclofenac, ketorolac
Anti-inflammatory (Steroid) – Eye	Alrex, Flarex, FML Forte, loteprednol, Maxidex, Pred Mild	dexamethasone, fluorometholone, prednisolone
Anti-inflammatory (Steroid) – Nose	flunisolide, mometasone, Omnaris, Qnasl, Ticanase, Xhance, Zetonna	over the counter products, fluticasone
Glaucoma	Atropine 0.025%, 0.01%, & 0.05%, tafluprost, Timoptic Ocudose, Vyzulta, Xelpros	atropine 1% eye drops, bimatoprost, brimonidine, latanoprost, timolol, travoprost
<b>ENDOCRINE</b>		
Adrenal Hormones (Corticosteroids)	Alkindi Sprinkle, Asmalpred Plus, deflazacort, Dexabliss, Rayos DR, Taperdex	dexamethasone, fludrocortisone, hydrocortisone, methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone
Estrogen Products (and combinations)	Bijuva, Climara Pro, Elestrin, estradiol 0.06% gel pump, Femring	Combipatch, estradiol cream/gel/patches/tablets, estradiol-norethindrone,
Growth Hormones	Humatrope, Norditropin, Nutropin AQ, Saizen, Zomacton	Genotropin, Omnitrope
Somatostatin Analogs	Sandostatin LAR Depot, Signifor LAR	lanreotide, octreotide
Testosterone Products	Aveed, Kyzatrex, Methitest, Natesto, Testone, Tlando, Vogelxo, Xyosted	methyltestosterone, testosterone gel/injection/patch
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL</b>		
Antidiarrheals	Mytesi	diphenoxylate/atropine, loperamide
Antiemetics	Akynzeo, Bonjesta ER, ondansetron ODT 16 mg, Sancuso	aprepitant, granisetron, ondansetron 4 mg & 8 mg, scopolamine
Constipation	Kristalose, Trulance	lactulose solution, lubiprostone
Corticosteroids - Rectal	Ana-Lex, hydrocortisone-pramoxine 25-18 mg, lidocaine-HC cream/gel kits, Zypram	hydrocortisone-pramoxine cream, lidocaine-HC cream/gel
	Cortifoam, Proctofoam-HC	hydrocortisone enema, hydrocortisone-pramoxine
Inflammatory Bowel Agents	Dipentum, Pentasa	mesalamine DR/ER
Pancreatic Enzymes	Pancreaze, Pertzye, Viokace	Creon, Zenpep
Ulcer Therapy - H2 Blockers	cimetidine, nizatidine	over the counter products, famotidine
Ulcer Therapy - Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI)	Aciphex Sprinkle, dexlansoprazole DR, esomeprazole, lansoprazole, Nexium packets, omeprazole-bicarbonate, Prilosec suspension, rabeprazole	over the counter products (esomeprazole, omeprazole, lansoprazole), omeprazole, pantoprazole

DRUG CATEGORY	EXCLUDED MEDICATIONS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES
<b>INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS</b>		
Miscellaneous	Abrilada, adalimumab-aacf, adalimumab-aaty, adalimumab-fkjp, Amjevita, Hadlima, Hulo, Hyrimoz (NDCs starting with 83457), Idacio, Yuflyma, Yusimry	adalimumab-adaz, adalimumab-adbm, adalimumab-ryvk, Cyltezo, Humira, Hyrimoz (NDCs starting with 61314), Simlandi
	Kineret	Enbrel, Humira, Rinvoq, Xeljanz
	Otrexup	methotrexate, Rasuvo
Psoriasis	Cosentyx, Siliq	Skyrizi, Stelara, Taltz, Tremfya
<b>MUSCULOSKELETAL AND RHEUMATOLOGY</b>		
Muscle Relaxants	baclofen oral solution, baclofen 15 mg tablet, cyclobenzaprine ER, Lyvispah, Orphengesic Forte, Ozobax DS, tizanidine capsule	baclofen 10mg & 20 mg tablets, carisoprodol, cyclobenzaprine, methocarbamol, tizanidine tablets
Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Agents (NSAIDs)	Coxanto, diclofenac pump, diclofenac epolamine patch, diclofenac 25 mg capsule/tablet, Diclofono, Dicloprep-100, fenoprofen, Flector, Fortek, indomethacin suppository/suspension, ketorolac nasal spray, Lofena, meloxicam suspension, naproxen CR/ER, naproxen-esomeprazole, Sprix, Tivorbex, Zorvolex	celecoxib, diclofenac 1.5% solution, diclofenac 50 mg, 75 mg & 100 mg tablet, diclofenac 1% gel, etodolac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, piroxicam, sulindac
<b>PAIN</b>		
Analgesics - Combination	Apadaz, benzhydrocodone-acetaminophen, butalbital-acetaminophen	acetaminophen-codeine, hydrocodone-acetaminophen, oxycodone-acetaminophen, tramadol-acetaminophen
Analgesics - Narcotic	fentanyl buccal tablet, Fentora, levorphanol	codeine, fentanyl patch, hydromorphone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone
Analgesics - Non-Narcotic Analgesics	Conzip, Nucynta, Tramadol ER capsules	butorphanol nasal spray, pentazocine-naloxone, tramadol, tramadol ER tablets, tramadol-acetaminophen
	Lucemyra	buprenorphine-naloxone film/tablet, naltrexone
Antimigraine (Headache)	diclofenac powder packets, Ergomar, Onzetra Xsail, sumatriptan-naproxen, Zembrace	almotriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan
<b>PULMONARY AGENTS</b>		
Anticholinergics – Inhaled	Incruse Ellipta	Spiriva Respimat, tiotropium
Beta Agonists (Combination) – Inhaled	Airduo Respiclick, Fluticasone-Vilanterol	Advair HFA, Breo Ellipta, Breynd, budesonide-formoterol, Dulera, fluticasone-salmeterol, Wixela Inhub
Beta Agonists (Long-Acting) – Inhaled	Striverdi	Serevent Diskus
Beta Agonists (Short-Acting) – Inhaled	Levalbuterol HFA, levalbuterol nebs, ProAir Respiclick, Xopenex HFA	albuterol HFA, albuterol nebs
Epinephrine	Auvi-Q	epinephrine auto-injectors
Glucocorticoids – Inhaled	Alvesco	Arnuity Ellipta, Qvar
<b>UROLOGICALS</b>		
Cystine Reducers	Procysbi	Cystagon
Nocturia	Noctiva	desmopressin nasal spray
Overactive Bladder Therapy	Gelnique, mirabegron Oxytrol	fesoterodine, oxybutynin, tolterodine, trospium

DRUG CATEGORY	EXCLUDED MEDICATIONS	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES
<b>MISCELLANEOUS AGENTS</b>		
Antihistamines	carbinoxamine, clemastine syrup, dexchlorpheniramine, fexofenadine 60 mg, Karbinal ER, Ryvent	over the counter products (cetirizine, diphenhydramine, loratadine), cetirizine, cyproheptadine, desloratadine, hydroxyzine, levocetirizine
Myeloid (White Cell) Stimulators	Neulasta	Udenyca, Ziextenzo
Osteoporosis	Evenity	alendronate, risedronate
Thyroid Hormone	Ermeza, levothyroxine capsule, Tirosint	levothyroxine tablet
Prenatal Vitamins	Azesco, OB Complete, OB Complete DHA, Pregenna, Trinaz	M-Natal Plus, Mynatal, PNV Prenatal, Prenaissance, Prenatabs, Prenatal Plus, SE-Natal, Trinatal, Trinate

**Excluded Multisource Brand Products** (use generic versions)

Abilify  
Absorica  
Acanya  
Aciphex  
Acticlate  
Aczone  
Adcirca  
Adderall  
Ala-Scalp  
Alinia  
Alrex  
Ambien  
Ambien CR  
Amerge  
Ampyra ER  
Amrix ER  
Androgel  
Anusol-HC  
Apriso ER  
Arimidex  
Atacand  
Atacand HCT  
Atralin  
Atripila  
Aubagio  
Avalide  
Avapro  
Avodart  
Azopt  
Azor  
Banzel  
Baraclude  
Benicar  
Benicar HCT  
Bepreve  
Bidil  
Brovana  
Butrans  
Cambia  
Carafate  
Carospir  
Celebrex  
Clarinet  
Clindagel  
Clobex  
Colazal  
Concerta ER  
Condylox  
Cordran  
Coreg  
Coreg CR  
Cosopt  
Cozaar  
Crestor  
Cuprimine  
Cuvposa  
Cymbalta  
Cystadane  
Cytomel  
Delzicol  
Denavir



Detrol  
Detrol LA  
Dexilant  
Differin  
Diovan  
Diovan HCT  
Duexis  
Dymista  
Effexor XR  
Elidel  
Emend  
Emflaza  
Epiduo  
Epiduo Forte  
Eryped  
Esgic  
Estrace cream  
Estrogel  
Evoclin  
Exforge  
Exforge HCT  
Exjade  
Extina  
Feldene  
Fexmid  
Fioricet  
Fioricet w/codeine  
Firazyr  
Firvanq  
Fleqsuvy  
FML  
Focalin  
Focalin XR  
Fosrenol  
Frova  
Ganirelix (brand)  
Gleevec  
Glucotrol XL  
Halog  
Hyzaar  
Imitrex  
Inderal LA  
Indocin  
Intuniv ER  
Istalol  
Keppra  
Keppra XR  
Keveyis  
Klonopin  
Kuvan  
Lamictal  
Lamictal ODT  
Lamictal XR  
Latuda  
Letairis  
Lialda  
Librax  
Lidoderm  
Lipitor  
Livalo  
Locoid

Lotrel  
Lovenox  
Lunesta  
Lyrica  
Lyrica CR  
Maxalt  
Maxalt MLT  
Mestinon  
Micardis  
Micardis HCT  
Migranal  
Minivelle  
Minocin  
Monodox  
Myrbetriq  
Naftin  
Nalfon  
Namenda XR  
Naprelan  
Nascobal  
Natroba  
Neurontin  
Nexium  
Norgesic  
Norgesic Forte  
Norpace  
Norvasc  
Noxafil  
Nuvigil  
Olux  
Olux-E  
Onexton  
Oracea  
Pennsaid  
Pentasa  
Pepcid  
Percocet  
Plavix  
Pravachol  
Prevacid  
Pristiq  
Protonix  
Provigil  
Prozac  
Pulmicort nebs  
Pyridium  
Rapaflo  
Relpax  
Retin-A Micro  
Roxicodone  
Rozerem  
Ryclora  
Sabril  
Samsca  
Saphris  
Seroquel  
Seroquel XR  
Singulair  
Strattera  
Sumaxin  
Synalar

Taclonex  
Targadox  
Targretin  
Tazorac  
Testim  
Tikosyn  
Timoptic  
Tobi  
Topamax  
Topicort  
Toviaz  
Travatan Z  
Treximet  
Tribenzor  
Tricor  
Trileptal  
Uloric  
Uroxatral  
Vagifem  
Valium  
Valtrex  
Vanos  
Vectical  
Veltin  
Vesicare  
Vibramycin  
Viibryd  
Vimovo  
Vivelle-DOT  
Vivlodex  
Vogelxo  
Vytorin  
Welchol  
Xalatan  
Xanax  
Xanax XR  
Xenazine  
Zanaflex  
Zavesca  
Zegerid  
Zetia  
Ziana  
Zioptan  
Zipsor  
Zocor  
Zomig  
Zonalon  
Zonegran  
Zovirax ointment  
Zyclara  
Zytiga