

RD and Social Worker Phosphate Binders Talking Points/FAQ

Effective January 1, 2025, dialysis patients covered by Medicare must obtain phosphorus binders directly from their dialysis provider (Northwest Kidney Centers Pharmacy).

Q: Which patients will be impacted by this change?

- This change impacts patients with Medicare as their primary insurance. For patients who have dual coverage they may want to check with their insurance provider to understand the impact based on their specific plan.
- If Medicare has a "1" as the precedence in Clarity under Registration- Insurance Information- Policies, then this patient will need to get their binders from NKC.

Company Name	Precedence	Plan Start Date	Plan End Date
MEDICARE (NORIDIAN)	1	08/01/2022	
MUTUAL OF OMAHA	2	08/01/2022	

Q: What do patients need to do?

- Talk to their doctors about sending an updated prescription to the Northwest Kidney Centers pharmacy at the time of their next refill. The deadline for having all prescriptions moved to Northwest Kidney Centers is December 31, 2024.

Q: Will the cost of their binders change?

- Patients should not see an increase in cost but can call the Member Services number on the back of their insurance card to verify exact costs.

Q: How does a patient refill prescriptions with NKC?

- Use the order form on our website at www.nwkidney.org/refill-a-prescription/

- Refill by phone using the voicemail refill line: 206-343-4125, available 24 hours a day
- Stop by our pharmacy at 700 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122
- For general pharmacy questions, phone a pharmacist: 206-343-4870 or 1-800-947-8902

Q: How does a patient get prescriptions from NKC?

- In-center dialysis patients can have medications delivered to their dialysis unit, or they can pick-up from the pharmacy at 700 Broadway
- Home Hemo and Peritoneal Dialysis patients will have medications mailed to their home
- Patients living in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) will have medications mailed to their SNF

Q: Which medications are impacted by this change?

- Sevelamer carbonate (Renvela)
- Sevelamer hydrochloride (Renagel)
- Calcium Acetate (Phoslo)
- Sucroferric oxyhydroxide (Velphoro)
- Lanthanum carbonate (Fosrenol)
- Ferric Citrate (Auryxia)
- Tenapanor (Xphozah) – see below for more information

Q: Will patients need to change their medication?

- Tenapanor will not be available at the Northwest Kidney Centers Pharmacy for any patients, regardless of patient coverage, due to supply restrictions.
- If the patient is currently taking Tenapanor, they may need to consult with their doctor about alternative medications.

Q: Will Calcium Carbonate (TUMS) be covered by Medicare?

- TUMS is not covered by Medicare but is covered by Medicaid. If you have Medicaid or are dual-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, TUMS is covered. If TUMS is not covered for you, it is available over the counter at the Northwest Kidney Centers pharmacy. As of Sept. 30th, the price was \$3.00 for 150 tablets.

Q: Which phosphate binders will require pre-authorization?

- Ferric citrate (Auryxia) and sucroferric oxyhydroxide (Velphoro). Physicians will need to complete a request form which can be found on the Northwest Kidney Centers website.

Q: Will a pre-authorization need to be submitted if a patient is already taking Auryxia or Velphoro?

- No. The pre-authorization process will only apply to new medications starting Jan. 1, 2025.

Q: How many binders can a patient get at one time?

- Due to Medicare regulations, the Northwest Kidney Centers pharmacy can only fill a 30-day supply of binders for patients with Medicare.
- Other medications may be available in a 90-day supply

Q: If a patient has a question I can't answer, who do I direct them to?

- Insurance coverage questions: Patient Finance
- Prescription related questions: Northwest Kidney Centers pharmacy at 206-343-4870