

Drug Exclusions

By law, certain types of drugs or categories of drugs are not covered by Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. These drugs or categories of drugs are called “exclusions” and include:

- Nonprescription drugs, unless they are part of a step therapy
- Drugs when used for anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain
- Drugs when used to promote fertility
- Drugs when used for cosmetic purposes or hair growth
- Drugs when used for the symptomatic relief of cough or colds
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Outpatient drugs for which the manufacturer seeks to require that associated tests or monitoring services be purchased exclusively from the manufacturer as a condition of sale
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines

In addition, a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan cannot cover a drug if the drug would be available under Medicare Part A or Part B. See your *Medicare & You* Handbook for more information about drugs that are covered by Medicare Part A and Part B. Some drugs are covered under Medicare Part B in some cases and under Blue MedicareRx in other cases. In general, your pharmacist or provider will determine whether to bill Medicare Part B or Blue MedicareRx for the drug in question.