



09-16

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ALL-EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM**

DATE: August 19, 2016

**EMPLOYEE MEDICAL HEALTH PLAN (EMHP) OF SUFFOLK COUNTY
IMPORTANT CHANGES REGARDING PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS
ADMINISTERED BY WELLDYNERX**

***Note:** These changes only apply to Active and Non-Medicare eligible retirees/dependent survivors and their eligible dependents; not Medicare eligible retirees/dependent survivors enrolled in the Express Scripts Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.*

As part of our continuing effort to provide our members with important updates regarding the Employee Medical Health Plan of Suffolk County (EMHP), the Labor/Management Committee, which oversees the EMHP, would like to provide you with the following important information and updates regarding your prescription benefits.

EXCLUSION OF COMBINATION ACID-REFLUX MEDICATIONS
Effective November 1, 2016

Effective November 1, 2016, the EMHP prescription benefits will be requiring the use of single agent generic alternatives and excluding acid-reflux combination agents in order to control prescription utilization and expenditures. Currently, these agents include Vimovo, Duexis, Zegerid and Omeprazole/sodium bicarb. New agents might be added in the future. Check with WellDyneRx to verify whether your acid-reflux agent might fall under this exclusion. Acid-reflux combination agents and single agent generic alternatives help in the reduction of acid production in the stomach and are used to treat gastric ulcers, acid-reflux and heart burn. Each active ingredient is available in generic form and when administered together is as equally effective as the combination agents.

The combination acid-reflux medications will reject at the point-of-service and **will not** be covered under the EMHP pharmacy benefit.

EXCLUSION OF COUNTERIRRITANTS

Counterirritants are over-the-counter medications that have not been approved by the FDA. This plan does not provide benefit coverage for drugs and medications that are not FDA-approved. These counterirritants, also known as topical analgesics, are only indicated to treat mild pain due to the mild potency of its active ingredients.” Most of these topical analgesics have not been

found by the FDA to be safe and effective. Therefore, the FDA has not approved their labeling/indication. These medications will reject at the point-of-service and **will not** be covered under the EMHP pharmacy benefit.



Dennis M. Cohen
Chief Deputy County Executive

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