

Information about
Medications for Weight Gain that are
Excluded from the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

You indicated that you take a medication to gain weight. If you take any of the medications listed below to improve your appetite and gain weight due to a long-term disease such as cancer, AIDS, heart failure, lung, kidney, or liver disease, the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage will pay for these medications. If you take these medications for *other* reasons, the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage may not pay for them.

Brand Name	Generic Name
Megace	megestrol acetate
Oxandrin	oxandrolone
Marinol	dronabinol

Below are some options that may either reduce the cost or provide coverage for your medication that may be excluded from Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage:

- **Generic drugs**— If you take the brand-name drug for one of the excluded medications listed above, check with your physician or pharmacist to find out if a generic drug is available. Generic drugs are less expensive than brand-name drugs and can help you save money on medications that are not covered by Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. A generic drug works like the brand-name drug in dosage, strength, performance and use, and must meet the same quality and safety standards. All generic drugs are reviewed and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- **“Enhanced coverage plans” through Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**— Some Medicare Prescription Drug Plans may offer enhanced coverage. Your excluded medication may be paid for under the enhanced coverage. Please note that the premiums (monthly fees paid to the plan) for enhanced coverage plans may be higher than standard coverage plans.
- **Pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs**—These programs offered by some pharmaceutical companies provide medications at a very low cost based on a person's income and needs. The specific medication you take may or may not be included in a pharmaceutical company patient assistance program. Check with the pharmaceutical company to find out if the excluded medication you take is available as part of their patient assistance program.
- **Pharmaceutical company discount cards**—Prescription cards that offer medications at a discounted price are available to qualified persons. The specific medication you take may or may not be included as part of a pharmaceutical company discount card program. Check with the pharmaceutical company to find out if the excluded medication you take is available as part of their discount card program.

- **Other Options**—The following programs may pay for some or all of the medications that are excluded from the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. If you currently receive prescription benefits or assistance from any of the following programs, you may want to consider checking into whether the program will cover your excluded medications.
 - **Your State Medicaid Program**
 - **Your State Pharmacy Assistance Program** (if available in your state)
 - **TRICARE** for retired military service members and their spouses
 - **CHAMPVA**