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Watch those blue tags! An easy guide to Medicare Advantage spending at CVS stores

Wellness Zone

Watch those blue tags! An easy guide to Medicare Advantage spending at CVS stores

The products your OTC (over-the-counter) card can buy are simple to spot — with the help of plan catalogs and blue tags.

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Written by: Anastasia Climan



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drops, vitamins and supplements — at no out-of-pocket cost to you.

At CVS® stores, it's easy to walk in and find what you need. The following guide gives you one quick way to spot the items your plan is likely to cover. It also explains how to buy them at the checkout with your OTC benefit.



In this article:

- · What is an OTC benefit card?
- How do I use the card in CVS stores?
- What do the blue tags mean?
- Can I use my ExtraCare® card for discounts on these products?

What is an OTC benefit card?

Your OTC benefit may take different shapes. But it often arrives as a card that holds your approved balance. You should receive the card in the mail along with paperwork welcoming you to Medicaid or Medicare Advantage. You may need to activate the card before use.

How do I use the card in CVS stores?

It's easy to use your OTC card at CVS.

1.Go to a CVS location. All stores can process your OTC benefit, with the exception of CVS locations in Target stores and Schnucks supermarkets.

2.Understand what your health plan covers. Get to know which products are eligible for your OTC benefit. Sometimes this information is available online and on your phone.

3.Watch for blue tags. These signs may indicate that a product is part of OTC Health Solutions — a CVS Health supplemental benefit program. Even if you're not a member, these tags signal items that are widely covered for other plans.

4.Check out. When you reach the cashier, let them know you're using your benefit before they start scanning. Then use your OTC card if you have one.

What do the blue tags mean?

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Just because something has a blue tag doesn't mean it's covered under your plan. So it's important to know the types of products your plan covers before you shop. Check with your plan provider for this information.

Can I use my ExtraCare card for discounts on these products?



Depending on which OTC supplemental benefit you have, you may be able to use ExtraBucks Rewards® or promotional offers on your order. Item prices are listed in your plan catalog. Retail prices at the store may differ.

CVS® makes it easy to redeem OTC benefits

You may be eligible to get select over-the-counter (OTC) products at <u>no</u> additional cost.*

Learn more about OTC benefits >

This content is for informational purposes only and is not medical advice. Consult your health care provider before taking any vitamins or supplements and prior to beginning or changing any health care practices.

¹ https://www.chpa.org/sites/default/files/media/docs/2021-10/MA%20OTC%20Full%20Report.pdf ☐ ↑

*FOR OVER-THE-COUNTER BENEFITS AT NO ADDITIONAL COST: Over-the-counter (OTC) allowance benefits are included in select Medicare Advantage and Medicaid plans. The allowance may only be applied to select OTC products. Allowance amount may vary by plan. Customer may be responsible for the cost of any items not covered by their plan or

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