

Preventive Medication Coverage

Under the federal healthcare reform law, known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, health plans must now cover many medications that are used in preventive care.

This law takes effect for health plans that start or renew on or after October 1, 2010.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island health plans will cover the below drugs, supplements, and immunizations when prescribed by a licensed provider. Coverage is not available through mail order and is only available through participating retail pharmacies.

What's covered:

> **Aspirin**

Over-the-counter (OTC) generic aspirin will be covered for both men and women beginning at age 45 when it is prescribed to reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke.

> **Folic Acid**

OTC generic folic acid will be covered as a daily supplement for women planning a pregnancy. Coverage applies to women who are age 55 and younger.

> **Iron Supplements**

Routine iron supplements are covered for children aged 6 to 12 months who are at increased risk for iron deficiency anemia. Coverage is limited to a 30-day supply per month. Only generic prescription drugs and OTC iron supplement medications are covered.

> **Oral Fluorides**

Oral fluoride supplements are covered for children older than 6 months and through the age of 6 whose primary water source

is deficient in fluoride. Coverage is limited to a 30-day supply per month. Only generic prescription drugs are covered.

> **Smoking Cessation Medications**

OTC generic nicotine replacement products, such as patches and gum, will be covered. In addition, generic prescription drugs, such as Bupropion and brand prescription drugs such as Nicotrol, Nicotrol NS, and Chantix are covered.

Nicotine replacement products are limited to the manufacturer's packaging per prescription. OTC and prescription medications are limited to a 30-day supply per month.

> **Vaccines**

Immunization vaccines for children, adolescents, and adults are covered when they are administered at a physician's office.