

## Drugs: Contract Drugs List Part 3 – Over-the-Counter Cold/Cough Preparations

Page updated: May 2021

«The following text is removed» effective May 13, 2020: On March 24, 2011, legislation was passed in California eliminating over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold products as a covered pharmacy benefit. As a result of this legislation, effective March 1, 2012, over-the-counter cough/cold products are not a benefit of the Medi-Cal program. Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) eligible beneficiaries are exempt from this elimination of benefit. Time-released OTC cough/cold drug products are not a benefit.

**Restriction:** Only OTC antihistamines, OTC decongestants and combinations of the two are covered pharmacy benefits. OTC expectorants, OTC antitussives and their combinations are not a benefit. «End of removed text.»

**Restriction:** Extended release products are not a benefit. All OTC antihistamine, all OTC decongestants and all OTC antihistamine/decongestant combination drug products are restricted to individuals 2 years of age and older. Authorization is required for individuals under 2 years of age.

### «Table of OTC Antihistamines and Decongestants»

Product Description	Chemical Name
Antihistamine	Brompheniramine Maleate <sup>∞</sup>
Antihistamine	Chlorpheniramine Maleate
Antihistamine	Dexbrompheniramine Maleate
Antihistamine	Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride
Antihistamine	Doxylamine Succinate <sup>∞</sup>
Antihistamine	Pyrilamine <sup>∞</sup>
Antihistamine	Triprolidine
Decongestant	Phenylephrine HCl
Decongestant	Pseudoephedrine

«The following restriction for Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride and Doxylamine Succinate is removed» effective May 13, 2020: Restricted for use in the treatment of allergies or allergic conditions only. «End of removed text.»

## Over-the-Counter (OTC) Cold/Cough Preparation Ingredient Specifications

«The products in the table below are added» effective May 13, 2020.

Product Description	Chemical Name
Antihistamines	Brompheniramine, chlorpheniramine, dexbrompheniramine, diphenhydramine, doxylamine succinate, phenindamine, pyrilamine and triprolidine
Expectorant	Guaifenesin
Nasal Decongestants	Ephedrine, Epinephrine, phenylephrine and pseudoephedrine
Antitussives	Dextromethorphan and diphenhydramine

**Note:** Drug products must contain one to three active ingredients of different therapeutic classifications, effective May 13, 2020.

«The products in the table below are removed» effective May 13, 2020.

Product Description	Chemical Name
Nasal Decongestants	phenylpropanolamine

«End of removed text.»

### Expectorant (1 active ingredient)

«Expectorant is added» effective May 13, 2020.

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 ml and 240 ml) are removed for the liquid.»

## Antihistamine (1 active ingredient)

«Antihistamines are added» effective May 13, 2020

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid, solution, suspension or syrup	«blank»	milliliter
Diphenhydramine HCl ¥	12.5 mg/5 ml	milliliter
Other liquid	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 ml and 240 ml) are removed for the other liquid.»

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Tablets or capsules	«blank»	each
Brompheniramine Maleate ¥	4 mg	each
Chlorpheniramine Maleate ¥	4 mg	each
Diphenhydramine HCl ¥	25 mg	each
Diphenhydramine HCl ¥	50 mg	each
Other tablets and capsules	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (24 each, 48 each and 100 each) are removed for the other tablets and capsules.»

## Nasal Decongestant (1 active ingredient)

«Nasal Decongestants are added» effective May 13, 2020

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid, solution or syrup	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantity (120 ml) is removed for the liquid, solution or syrup.»

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Tablets or capsules, immediate release	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (24 each and 100 each) are removed for the tablets or capsules, immediate release.»

## Nasal Decongestant with Expectorant (2 active ingredients)

«Nasal Decongestant with Expectorant is added» effective May 13, 2020

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 ml and 240 ml) are removed for the liquid.»

## Antihistamine/with Nasal Decongestant Combination (2 active ingredients)

«Antihistamine/with Nasal Decongestant Combination is added» effective May 13, 2020

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid, solution or syrup	«blank»	milliliter
Liquid, solution or syrup: Triprolidine HCl with Pseudoephedrine HCl ¥	1.25 mg – 30 mg/5 ml	milliliter
Other liquid	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 ml, 150 ml and 240 ml) are removed for the other liquid.»

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Tablets or capsules, immediate release	«blank»	each
Tablets or capsules, immediate release: Triprolidine HCl with Pseudoephedrine HCl ¥	2.5 mg – 60 mg	each
Other tablets or capsules	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (24 each, 40 each, 48 each and 100 each) are removed for the other tables or capsules.»

## Antihistamine with Antitussive and Nasal Decongestant (3 active ingredients)

«Antihistamine with Antitussive and Nasal Decongestant is added» effective May 13, 2020.

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 ml, 180 ml and 240 ml) are removed for the liquid.»

## Antitussive with Expectorant (2 active ingredients)

«Antitussive with Expectorant is added» effective May 13, 2020.

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid	«blank»	milliliter

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 cc, 180 cc and 240 cc) are removed for the liquid.»

## Antitussive with Nasal Decongestant (2 active ingredients)

«Antitussive with Nasal Decongestant is added» effective May 13, 2020.

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid	«blank»	milliliter

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (60 cc, 120 cc, 180 cc and 240 cc) are removed for the liquid.»

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Tablets or capsules	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantity (20 each) are removed for the tablets or capsules.»

## Antitussive with Nasal Decongestant and Expectorant (3 active ingredients)

«Antitussive with Nasal Decongestant and Expectorant is added» effective May 13, 2020

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Liquid	«blank»	milliliter

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (120 cc, 180 cc and 240 cc) are removed for the liquid.»

Dosage Form	Strength and/or Size	Billing Unit
Tablets or capsules	«blank»	«blank»

Effective May 13, 2020 «the quantities (24 each and 100 each) are removed for the tablets or capsules.»

## «Legend»

«Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.»

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.
¥	Subject to Federal Upper Limit or Maximum Allowable Ingredient Cost.
Ω	Authorization not needed for continuing care. See <i>Drugs: Contract Drugs List Part 5 – Authorized Drug Manufacturer Labeler Codes</i> for more information.
∞	These products are currently only available in the marketplace as OTC combinations.
*	Code I. Refer to paragraph (2) of “General Provisions” in the <i>Drugs: Contract Drugs List Introduction</i> section of this manual regarding authorization and prescription documentation requirements.
+	Frequency of billing requirement. See paragraph (3) of “General Provisions” in the <i>Drugs: Contract Drugs List Introduction</i> section regarding information and exceptions.
γ	Cost is based on this package size. See paragraph (4) of “General Provisions” in the <i>Drugs: Contract Drugs List Introduction</i> section for more information.
§	Authorization not needed for continuing care. See paragraph (6) of “General Provisions” in the <i>Drugs: Contract Drugs List Introduction</i> section for more information
‡	Drug is exempt from the monthly drug claim line limit. See paragraph (7) of “General Provisions” in the <i>Drugs: Contract Drugs List Introduction</i> section for more information
◆	Suspended until further notice