



## **New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

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TO: NYSCOPBA Chief Sector Stewards

FROM: Sharon Smith, Health Benefits Specialist

DATE: April 15, 2020

RE: Empire Plan Withdrawal of Ranitidine Syrup (a Generic Version of Zantac) from Formularies

The FDA has requested the withdrawal of Ranitidine Syrup from the market. Ranitidine is a proton pump inhibitor used to treat heartburn/GERD and is a generic of Zantac. You may remember Ranitidine tablets were withdrawn from the market a few months ago. Apparently the Ranitidine Syrup has the same impurities in one of its ingredients that the tablets have, impurities that can cause cancer. As a result, Ranitidine Syrup will no longer be included on the Empire Plan formularies.

Currently, 473 active and pre-age 65 retirees and 30 Medicare primary retirees utilize the syrup. A notice will be posted in the "What's New" section of NYSHIP Online. Additionally, CVS is sending notification letters advising them to contact their provider to discuss alternatives.

Should you have any questions on this memo, feel free to contact me.

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cc: NYSCOPBA Executive Board  
NYSCOPBA Jt. Committee of Health Benefits