

Fidelis Care Covers Mosquito Repellent Amid Growing Zika Threat

With the Zika virus now in the continental United States, New York State health officials have announced that Medicaid Fee for Service will provide coverage for select mosquito repellent when prescribed to members who intend to travel to, or return from a Centers of Disease Control (CDC) [recognized area of localized Zika transmission](#). Although currently there are no locally transmitted cases in New York State, this action was taken to protect against Zika, a mosquito-borne virus linked to severe birth defects in fetuses whose mothers are infected while pregnant. Zika may also be transmitted sexually, which is why it is imperative for both men and women to use repellent to protect themselves and their unborn babies. Currently no vaccine exists to prevent the disease or medicine to treat it.

Consistent with Medicaid policy for coverage of non-prescription items, a fiscal order, which includes all the same information contained on a prescription, is required. Effective September 15, 2016, products covered through Fidelis Care include but are not limited to OFF[®], Cutter[®], Repel Sportsmen[®], and Sawyer Insect Repellent[®]. There is a quantity limit of two (2) cans/bottles of repellent per six month period. Click [here](#) for a full list of covered products.

Fidelis Care recommends the 4Ds to reduce the chance of being bitten by a mosquito:

- DEET: Whenever you're outside, use insect repellents that contain DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide).
- DUSK & DAWN: Limit outdoor activities during dusk and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active.
- DRESS: Wear shoes, socks, long, loose, and light-colored clothing outside.
- DRAIN: Remove all standing water in and around your home.