



Blue Cross of Idaho Statement on Prescription Drug Coverage Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)

Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee decision

Effective July 1, 2008, for most of Blue Cross of Idaho's members, Blue Cross of Idaho will only provide benefit coverage for generic omeprazole (Prilosec) and Prevacid (lansoprazole). The Blue Cross of Idaho Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee, made up of a group of practicing doctors and pharmacists from throughout Idaho, made the careful decision by reviewing clinical research evaluating the proton pump inhibitor class of medications.

Evidence supporting Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee decision

- *All proton pump inhibitors are similarly effective for the treatment of acid-related disorders.*
Several studies comparing the efficacy of various PPIs showed no significant difference among the PPIs.
- *Newest drug, Kapidex (dexlansoprazole), is similarly effective compared to Prevacid.*
Two clinical studies comparing the effectiveness of Kapidex to Prevacid found similar results between the two for the treatment of erosive esophagitis.
- *Generic omeprazole saves members money.*
A generic medication is an identical copy of a brand name medication in dosage, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, and performance. Whenever possible, we recommend generic medication and generic omeprazole is available with a lower copayment.

Formulary coverage

Blue Cross of Idaho continues to offer pharmacy benefit coverage for proton pump inhibitors.

Tier 1: Generic drugs LOWEST COPAYMENT	Tier 2: Brand drugs MIDDLE COPAYMENT	Tier 3: Non-Covered drugs
omeprazole	Prevacid (lansoprazole)	Aciphex (rabeprazole) Kapidex (dexlansoprazole) Nexium (esomeprazole) Pantoprazole Prilosec (brand name) Protonix (pantoprazole) Zegerid (omeprazole/ sodium bicarbonate)