

Provider Update



Change in Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI) Coverage

Effective October 1, 2008, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) is changing the administrative process of all nonpreferred proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), identified below. Going forward, reimbursement of these covered prescription drugs shall be conditioned on a member's physician certifying in writing to BCBSNC that the member has previously used the preferred drug and such drug has been detrimental to the member's health or has been ineffective in treating the condition and, in their opinion, is likely to be detrimental to the member's health or ineffective in treating the condition again. Physicians may certify to this information by completing and faxing the review form for the drug in question that will be located on the Web site at bcbsnc.com.

Preferred PPIs
Omeprazole (generic Prilosec)
Pantoprazole (generic Protonix)
Nexium

Members will be notified of this change by September 1, 2008. After October 1, if a member attempts to fill a prescription for a nonpreferred PPI, the claim will reject at the pharmacy as prior plan approval is required. As a result of the claim rejection, the member may purchase an over-the-counter version such as Prilosec OTC, or may contact their physician to discuss if a generic or preferred brand option would be appropriate for their condition. If the physician believes that the nonpreferred medication is necessary, the physician may submit the above-referenced certification to BCBSNC.

Nonpreferred PPIs
Zegerid
Prevacid
Aciphex
Protonix (40 mg suspension)
Lansoprazole powder

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your BCBSNC Network Management representative.

Your plan for better health.SM | bcbsnc.com



PO Box 2291 Durham, NC 27702-7431

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. © Mark of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. SM1 Mark of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.