



Medco Health Solutions, Inc.
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August 2008

**Important news about your
prescription drug benefit**

<First_Name> <Last_Name>
<Address1>, <Address2>
<City>, <State> <Zip_Code>

Dear <Patient First Name> <Patient Last Name>:

We are writing you with important information about your prescription benefits. If you are taking *Aciphex*[®] for heartburn or another stomach-related diagnosis, please note the following:

As of October 1, 2008, the copay for brand-name *Aciphex* will be \$50 for up to a 34-day supply. Any members who wish to remain on *Aciphex* will be required to have their health care provider complete a coverage review with Medco, the State Health Plan's prescription drug benefit manager, to determine whether *Aciphex* can continue to be covered under their prescription benefit plan. **Please note: Coverage reviews will not be available until October 1, 2008, or after. You may call Medco starting October 1, 2008, if you wish to request a coverage review.**

Taking a brand-name heartburn medication may cost you more than necessary. By taking an over-the-counter (OTC) or generic heartburn medication, you will save money. (For details on your potential cost savings and actual copay, please visit **My Rx Choices**[®] at <http://www.shpnc.org/saving-advisor.html>.)

The lower-cost heartburn medication options available to State Health Plan members are explained below:

- **Prilosec OTC**[®] and **omeprazole OTC** (the generic equivalent)
The over-the-counter options will save you the most money. They are covered under the pharmacy benefit with a \$5 copay for a 42-day supply, and they require a written prescription from your provider. *Note: The OTC medications are not subject to the same prior authorization requirements and quantity limits as the more costly prescription choices.*
- **Generic prescription omeprazole**
The generic prescription option also provides substantial savings with a \$10 copay for a standard 34-day supply. Generic medications are safe and provide the same health benefits as the brand-name versions, but at a lower cost to you.

Please see the enclosed flyer for a chart comparing the various heartburn medication options and their potential cost savings.

(over, please)

If you would like to save money on your heartburn medications, ask your health care provider (doctor) to consider prescribing an OTC or generic medication for your heartburn symptoms.

1. Talk to your provider and ask whether one of the OTC or generic medications would be right for you.
2. If he or she agrees, ask your provider for a new prescription.

Note: A prescription is required for State Health Plan coverage of *Prilosec OTC* or omeprazole OTC (42-count package). If you need a dose of 40 mg per day, your provider must write a prescription for two packages of 42-count *Prilosec OTC* or omeprazole OTC.

If your doctor believes you should continue to take *Aciphex*, you or your doctor can request a coverage review after October 1, 2008. He or she can call Medco toll-free at 1-800-417-1764, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Unless your doctor obtains approval, you will be responsible for the full cost of the medication.

If you have any questions about this letter or about your pharmacy benefit in general, **call the toll-free Member Services number, 1-800-336-5933.**

Sincerely,

North Carolina State Health Plan Pharmacy Services