



Medco Health Solutions, Inc.  
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**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 *Nexium*<sup>®</sup> for heartburn or another stomach-related diagnosis, please note the following:

**As of October 1, 2008, the copay for brand-name *Nexium* will be \$50 for up to a 34-day supply; however, it will continue to be covered without requiring a coverage review. All brand-name heartburn medications (*Nexium*, *Aciphex*<sup>®</sup>, *Prevacid*<sup>®</sup>, *Prilosec*<sup>®</sup>, *Protonix*<sup>®</sup> and *Zegerid*<sup>®</sup>) will be covered at a \$50 copay for up to a 34-day supply.**

**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**<sup>®</sup> at <http://www.shpnc.org/saving-advisor.html>.)

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

- *Prilosec OTC*<sup>®</sup> 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 other heartburn medications.*
- 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 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

LT913292

**Medco manages your prescription drug benefit for your company or health plan.**