

***Aciphex*[®] and *Nexium*[®] Copay Change and
Aciphex[®] Formulary Coverage Review
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

1. Why is the copay for *Aciphex*[®] and *Nexium*[®] now \$50?

The State Health Plan made this formulary management decision because there are both over-the-counter (OTC) and generic alternatives available for *Aciphex*[®] and *Nexium*[®] that are more cost effective for the Plan and for members. This is part of the State Health Plan's efforts to keep the cost of premiums affordable, while offering quality and choice.

2. How much longer will I be able to fill my *Aciphex*[®] or *Nexium*[®] prescription at a \$30 copay?

On October 1, 2008, prescriptions for *Aciphex*[®] and *Nexium*[®] (and all other brand name heartburn prescriptions) will require a \$50 copay.

3. If I obtain my *Aciphex*[®] or *Nexium*[®] prescription through *Medco by Mail* for a 3-month supply prior to October 1, 2008 (but which extends past that date), will I be charged a \$30 copay or a \$50 copay?

If you order a prescription before October 1, 2008 you will be charged a \$30 copay for a 3-month supply of your medication, even if the supply extends beyond October 1, 2008.

4. Are there lower-cost alternatives to *Aciphex*[®] or *Nexium*[®]?

There are several lower-cost heartburn medication options available to State Health Plan members. They are:

- **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 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.

Using one of the lower-cost alternatives to *Aciphex*[®] or *Nexium*[®] could save you up to \$555.00 per year. Please speak to your provider to see if one of the lower-cost alternatives may be an option for you.

5. Is there another brand name prescription heartburn medication at the \$30-copay level that I could use in place of *Aciphex*[®] or *Nexium*[®]?

No, all brand name prescription heartburn medications will now be covered at the \$50 copay level.

6. If I want to try one of the OTC heartburn medications, what do I need to do?

If you are taking a prescription heartburn medication and want to try an OTC option to save money, take the following steps:

Step	Action
1	Talk to your provider to see if switching to an OTC heartburn medication will be right for you.
2	Obtain a prescription from your provider for Prilosec OTC [™] or omeprazole OTC (42-count package).
3	Talk to your provider about appropriate dosing. Higher doses of the OTC product may be needed to be as effective as your prescription product, such as Nexium or Prevacid. If you need a dosage of 40mg, your provider must write you a prescription for Prilosec OTC [™] or omeprazole 84-count (2 packages of 42).
4	Take your prescription to your pharmacist so it can be filled using your State Health Plan pharmacy benefit for the \$5 copay

7. Why is my prescription for *Aciphex*[®] denied for coverage?

All *Aciphex* users must have tried Omeprazole (generic Prilosec[®]) and *Nexium*[®] without success, prior to the approval of *Aciphex*[®]. All prescription heartburn medications are also subject to quantity limits.

8. What if I cannot take one of the alternatives to *Aciphex*[®]?

If your provider feels that you should continue to take *Aciphex*[®], he or she may request a coverage review starting October 1, 2008 by calling Medco toll free at 1-800-417-1764 between 8:00AM and 9:00PM, Monday through Friday. Unless approval is obtained, you will be responsible for the full cost of the medication.

9. What if I cannot take one of the lower-cost alternatives to *Nexium*[®]?

If you or your provider feels that you should continue to take *Nexium*[®], then you may continue to fill your prescription without a coverage review. However, after October 1, 2008 the copay will be \$50 for up to a 34-day supply.

**Opportunities for Savings with Over-the-Counter (OTC) and
Generic Heartburn Medications**

Current Prescription Heartburn medication	Monthly copay	Possible alternative (talk to your provider)	Monthly copay	Annual savings
Aciphex [®] , Prevacid [®] or Protonix [®] (requires coverage review)	\$50	Prilosec OTC [™] or omeprazole OTC	\$5/42 days	\$555
Nexium [®] (does not require coverage review)	\$50	Prilosec OTC [™] or omeprazole OTC	\$5/42 days	\$555
Generic Prilosec [®] (Omeprazole) 10mg and 20mg (does not require coverage review)	\$10	Prilosec OTC [™] or omeprazole OTC	\$5/42 days	\$75