

Nexium® is considered a Non-Preferred medication on your Catamaran Formulary Guide and is covered with a copayment of \$50 at a retail pharmacy or \$125 through Catamaran Home Delivery Mail Service. Additional requirements, listed below, will be required for coverage. For your convenience, we have included a list of preferred alternatives and over-the-counter (OTC) options which offer the same therapeutic results as Nexium. If you are currently taking Nexium, you are encouraged to share this list with your physician and discuss whether one of the lower cost preferred alternatives is appropriate for you. **Effective July 1, 2014, Nexium 24hr OTC is available at a discounted copay.**

**Aciphex, Nexium, and Dexilant require step therapy**

Aciphex, Nexium, Dexilant, Prevacid, omeprazole OTC, Zegerid, and Protonix are all in the same medication class, called Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs). They are used to treat acid reflux (gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD), ulcers and other stomach conditions. Nexium and Dexilant do not currently have generic alternatives available and are therefore more costly. Omeprazole OTC is less costly and is very similar, chemically, to Nexium. It is clinically comparable in its effectiveness and offers the same quality therapy. In fact, omeprazole OTC and Nexium were initially made by the same manufacturer. There have been no proven indications that one PPI is clinically superior to another. An extensive review by the *British Medical Journal* editorial board concluded, from an analysis of many GERD and PPI studies, that PPIs do increase healing in people with GERD, but that one PPI was not more effective than another.

After extensive consultation with our pharmacy benefit manager, it is a requirement for employees to try OTC PPI or other preferred generics before moving on to a more expensive medication. Nexium and Dexilant, which do not have generic alternatives available, will require prior use of OTC PPI before coverage will be approved. This requirement is called step therapy. If you and your doctor feel it is necessary for you to take Nexium or Dexilant, you must first try OTC PPI for 30 days. If you find that OTC PPI is as effective as Nexium or one of the other brand name PPI drugs, we expect you to use an OTC PPI. Your doctor must write a prescription for the OTC PPI. **Your first month supply is free when you present a valid prescription at a local drug store or other retail establishment where prescriptions are filled. After that, your monthly cost for the OTC PPI will be \$5.00 as shown in the table below.**

It may be necessary for you to take two 20mg omeprazole OTC to assure the same results as taking Nexium 40mg. This is clinically appropriate and will not affect your copayment. Please advise your doctor that you may fill your prescription for omeprazole OTC for up to four tablets per day as long as the quantity is written correctly by the doctor on the prescription. If you do not try an OTC PPI first, the brand-name medications listed above will not be covered.

STATE OF OHIO COPAYMENT STRUCTURE		
Medication	Retail copayment – 30-day supply	Mail copayment – 90-day supply
+Aciphex®	\$50	\$125
+Nexium®	\$50	\$125
+Dexilant	\$50	\$125
Omeprazole	\$10	\$25
Pantoprazole	\$10	\$25
Lansoprazole	\$10	\$25
Omeprazole OTC	1 <sup>st</sup> fill free then \$5	\$12.50
Prilosec OTC®	1 <sup>st</sup> fill free then \$5	\$12.50
Prevacid 24HR OTC (lansoprazole OTC)	1 <sup>st</sup> fill free then \$5	\$12.50
Zegerid OTC (omeprazole/sodium bicarbonate OTC)	1 <sup>st</sup> fill free then \$5	\$12.50
Nexium 24HR OTC (esomeprazole OTC)	1 <sup>st</sup> fill free then \$5	\$12.50

**\* Indicates step therapy, with a 30-day trial of OTC or preferred prescription generic, is required.**

Please note: this is not a complete list and formulary changes can occur at any time due to changes in the marketplace. Benefit designs may vary with respect to drug coverage, quantity limitations, step therapy, days' supply, and prior authorization. For more information regarding your pharmacy benefit program or the Catamaran Rx Preferred Drug List (PDL), please log on to [www.MyCatamaranrx.com](http://www.MyCatamaranrx.com) or call Catamaran Rx at 866-854-8850.