

Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire) Hot Tip: Proton Pump Inhibitors

Your Empire patients on nonpreferred products may experience a pharmacy claim rejection. To avoid additional steps or delays at the pharmacy, consider prescribing preferred products whenever possible. Prior authorization and step therapy may apply to select preferred products. Coverage should be verified by reviewing the *Preferred Drug List (PDL)* on the Empire provider website. The *PDL* is subject to change quarterly.

Therapeutic class	Nonpreferred products	Preferred products ¹
Proton pump inhibitors	<p>All brand and generic <u>prescription</u> strengths and formulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zegerid (omeprazole-bicarbonate) • Omeppi (omeprazole-bicarbonate) • Omeprazole-bicarbonate (generic Rx Zegerid) 	<p>All brand and generic <u>OTC</u> strengths and formulations¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTC Zegerid (omeprazole-bicarbonate) • OTC omeprazole-bicarbonate (generic OTC Zegerid)
	<p>All brand and generic <u>prescription</u> product strengths and formulations unless otherwise noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aciphex (rabeprazole) • Dexilant (dexlansoprazole) • Esomeprazole (generic Nexium) • Lansoprazole (Prevacid) • Nexium (esomeprazole) • Omeprazole² (generic Prilosec) • Pantoprazole (generic Protonix) • Prevacid (lansoprazole) • Prilosec (omeprazole) • Protonix (pantoprazole) • Rabeprazole (generic Aciphex) 	<p>All brand and generic <u>OTC</u> product strengths and formulations¹ See footnote for reference of available OTC strengths³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTC esomeprazole DR (generic Nexium) • OTC lansoprazole DR (generic Prevacid) • OTC Nexium 24hr (esomeprazole) • OTC omeprazole (generic Prilosec) • OTC Prevacid 24hr (lansoprazole) • OTC Prilosec (omeprazole)
	<p>All other pediatric formulations⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rx Omeprazole 20 mg capsule² (generic Prilosec) • OTC Omeprazole ODT (generic Prilosec) • OTC Prilosec ODT (omeprazole) • OTC Lansoprazole ODT (generic Prevacid) • OTC Prevacid Solutab (lansoprazole)

- 1 All OTC products are available with a prescription.
- 2 All omeprazole **prescription** strengths and formulations are non-preferred except omeprazole 20mg capsules, which are available for children less than 6 years old only. This is the preferred product for pediatric compounding or difficulty swallowing.
- 3 Nexium/esomeprazole are available as 20mg capsules and tablets. Prevacid/lansoprazole are available as 15mg capsules. Prilosec/omeprazole are available as 20.6mg DR capsules or 20mg ODT tablets, capsules, and tablets.
- 4 Individuals less than one year of age are NOT subject to step therapy through a preferred agent.

Note: Quantity limit for proton pump inhibitors = 2 doses/day for OTC Esomeprazole, OTC Omeprazole, OTC Lansoprazole, OTC Prevacid 24 hours, OTC Nexium 24 hours and 1 dose/day for all other PPIs.

If you have questions regarding this *Hot Tip*, call Provider Services at **1-800-450-8753**.

PDL: <https://mediproviders.empireblue.com/ny/pages/formularies.aspx>