



May 11, 2009

Dear physician,

Caterpillar pharmacy records indicate that you have prescribed the Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) **Nexium, Protonix and/or Aciphex** to a Caterpillar plan participant. Effective August 1, 2009, these three brand products will no longer be covered for members who use the Caterpillar Drug Formulary. However, prescription **omeprazole** and **Prevacid** (lansoprazole) will continue to be covered under the prescription drug formulary. (Please note that not all plan participants are subject to the Caterpillar Drug Formulary.)

This decision was made after a review of the published literature that included the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center's *Drug Class Review on Proton Pump Inhibitors* (July 2006) and the American Gastroenterological Association's *Medical Position Statement on the Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease* (October 2008).

Our conclusions from this review were:

- From a population perspective, all PPIs are equally effective at equipotent doses.
- From an individual perspective, failure to control symptoms with one PPI does not exclude success with another PPI.
- Omeprazole will remain the first-line covered PPI.
- Prevacid will remain the alternative covered PPI in case treatment with omeprazole results in intolerance, undesirable drug-drug interactions or treatment failure.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) PPIs are equally safe and effective to prescription PPIs.

Caterpillar is committed to developing coverage policies based on current published evidence. Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

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