

# ConsumerRx<sup>®</sup>

## Prilosec OTC<sup>™</sup>

### What is Prilosec OTC<sup>™</sup>?

Prilosec over-the-counter (OTC) is a Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) used to treat frequent heartburn. PPIs work by blocking the production of stomach acid. Prilosec OTC contains omeprazole magnesium - the same medication found in **omeprazole** (Prilosec<sup>®</sup>) which is available by prescription.

### Is Prilosec OTC covered by my plan?

Prilosec OTC is covered at a generic copay when you get a prescription from your doctor.

### When did the FDA approve Prilosec OTC for over-the-counter use?

In September 2003 the FDA determined that **omeprazole** (Prilosec) was safe and effective for consumers without a prescription. Before 2003 both the generic and brand medication required prescriptions.

### What are my PPI options?

Your options include:

**Generic Medication: ~\$27 - \$35\***

**Preferred Brands: ~\$161\***

**Non-Preferred Brands: ~\$128 - \$209\***

omeprazole (Prilosec)  
Prilosec OTC

Prevacid<sup>®</sup>

Aciphex<sup>®</sup> Prilosec<sup>®</sup>  
Nexium<sup>®</sup> Protonix<sup>®</sup>

\*Approximate cost estimates based on a 30-day supply. Actual prices may vary depending on your pharmacy and the amount or strength of medication dispensed. Brand names in ( ) are non-formulary and are listed for your reference only.

### How do these heartburn medications compare?

They all work in a similar way. There are no proven differences in effectiveness for treating heartburn.

### How does coverage for Prilosec OTC<sup>™</sup> work?

Prilosec OTC must be prescribed by your doctor and filled at your pharmacy in order to be eligible for coverage. This means that your doctor either needs to:

- Telephone or fax in a prescription for Prilosec OTC to your pharmacy, or
- Provide you with a written prescription for Prilosec OTC that you can present at your pharmacy.

### What if I purchase Prilosec OTC at the front counter of the pharmacy?

You will not receive reimbursement for paying at the pharmacy's front counter. You need to fill a prescription for coverage.

### What quantities of Prilosec OTC are available?

Prilosec OTC comes in packages that contain 14, 28 and 42 caplets. We've asked your doctor to keep these quantities in mind when prescribing Prilosec OTC.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

**Ask your doctor if Prilosec OTC is right for you. There are no proven differences between Prilosec OTC and other more expensive medications. You can save money now and help keep health care more affordable in the future.**

*Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and/or lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.*



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