



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
Recipient Services MEU

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Mark T. Benton, Director
William W. Lawrence, Jr., M.D., Senior Deputy Director

May 24, 2007

Re: ID Card Insert for June 2007

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attached to this letter is a copy of a notice that will be included in the June 2007 Medicaid ID cards. The notice alerts recipients that Medicaid will require prior approval for brand name drugs in the drug class called proton pump inhibitors. The notice lists the drugs that require prior approval and also includes situations when prior approval is not required. The notice also includes procedures for doctors when writing prescriptions to allow pharmacist to override prior approval.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicaid Program Representative.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Benton

Attachment

Proton Pump Inhibitors

On June 1, 2007, N.C. Medicaid will require prior approval for brand name drugs in the drug class called proton pump inhibitors. Proton pump inhibitors help decrease the amount of acid produced in the stomach. The drugs that will require prior approval include Aciphex, Nexium, Prevacid, Prilosec, Protonix, and Zegerid. Prior approval will be required unless you meet one of the following:

- You have taken omeprazole 40mg (a generic proton pump inhibitor) for 30 days within the last 12 months and it did not work.
- You are taking esomeprazole magnesium (Nexium) 40mg for erosive esophagitis Grade C or D.
- You are taking brand name solutab or liquid dosage forms because you cannot swallow capsules or tablets

If your doctor writes one of these conditions on your prescription, your pharmacist may override the prior approval requirement and fill your prescription for the brand name drug at the pharmacy. Prior approval will not be required if you are pregnant, breastfeeding or under six years old. The prior approval criteria for these medications are located on the North Carolina Medicaid Enhanced PA web site at <http://www.ncmedicaidpbm.com>. Your doctor may also contact ACS at 866-246-8505 (phone) or 866-246-8507 (fax) to request prior approval.

June 1, 2007

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