

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) MEDICATIONS FACT SHEET

Question: Who can participate in this program?

Answer: Full-time Johnson County employees and their eligible dependents who are enrolled in the County's health plan.

Question: What drugs are covered under this program?

Answer: Two specific types of over-the-counter (OTC) medications which treat gastrointestinal and allergy ailments. The specific drugs are: Prilosec OTC[®] tablets and loratadine/loratadine-D tablets, including rapidly dissolving tablets, and syrup (generic for Claritin[®] and Alavert[®] products).

Question: Why is *Johnson County* implementing this program?

Answer: Under the current County drug program, there exists a pricing inefficiency that encourages use of brand name drugs when more cost-effective OTC drugs are also available. OTC medications can be as effective and cost a fraction of the price of similar prescription medications used to treat stomach acid and reflux disorders (Nexium[®], Protonix[®], Prevacid[®], Aciphex[®]) and antihistamines used to treat allergies (Zyrtec[®], Allegra[®], Xyzal[®], Clarinex[®]).

Question: How does the program work?

Answer: Members must obtain a written prescription from a physician and present it to a BCBSKC participating retail pharmacy to receive up to a 34-day supply of medication at the \$4.00 generic co-pay. Subsequent refills will also be covered at the generic co-pay.

If a member is currently receiving a brand name drug for which one of these OTC alternatives exist, he or she will receive a letter from BCBSKC advising of the OTC option.

Question: Will a member be able to receive a one-month supply of the OTC medication?

Answer: Yes, members may receive up to a one-month supply of medication but are **limited to the commercially available package sizes**.

For example:

- ✦ Prilosec OTC[®] is available in packages of 14 count, 28 count and 42 count boxes.
- ✦ Loratadine/Loratadine-D is available in several different count boxes, 10 count, 14 count, 15 count, 30 count boxes and others.

Question: What happens if my doctor issues a prescription with a different OTC drug name such as Omeprazole?

Answer: The pharmacy should be able to substitute Prilosec OTC for the other drug name as long as it was prescribed for a gastrointestinal disorder. If the pharmacy bills BCBSKC using the different name, such as Omeprazole, the claim will reject. However, if they resubmit the claim using Prilosec OTC, it will be accepted. You **MAY** have to point this fact out to the pharmacist to assist with the process.

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Question: Were pharmacies notified of this program?

Answer: Yes, pharmacies were notified by letter to educate them of the details of the new OTC drug program. However, you, as the consumer, may need to make sure the pharmacist or clerk understands that the County has this program and assist them with claim submittal.

Question: Were physicians notified of this program?

Answer: No. Due to the limited number of members impacted and to lessen confusion, physicians were not notified.

We recommend that the patient be proactive by discussing and verifying with the physician that the County covers these two OTC drugs and he specify these OTC medications when he writes the prescription, including proper dosage, e.g., one per day or two per day etc.

Question: Does this program require a prescription written by the physician?

Answer: Yes. Although these medications are available over-the-counter, a written prescription is required in order for BCBSKC to provide coverage under the member's pharmacy benefit.

Question: Can this program be applied at Express Scripts, our mail order pharmacy?

Answer: No. This is a retail pharmacy only program. You may only receive up to a 34-day supply.

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) MEDICATIONS PHARMACY PROCESSING GUIDELINES

The following section can be given to your pharmacy of choice to assist with them understanding that these two specific OTC medications are a covered benefit under the County's drug plan effective January 1, 2008.

Prilosec OTC[®]

- ✦ Process the prescription for Prilosec OTC[®] as you would any other prescription (legend) product. Member must have a valid prescription to be a covered benefit.
- ✦ Process for boxes of 14, 28 or 42 tablets.
- ✦ Process for a quantity of up to a 34-day supply.
- ✦ Charge customer their Tier-1 (generic) co-pay.

Generic Loratadine or Loratadine-D (tablets, orally disintegrating tablets, syrup)

- ✦ Process the prescription for generic Loratadine or generic Loratadine-D as you would any other prescription (legend) product. Member must have a valid prescription to be a covered benefit.
- ✦ Process for a quantity of up to a 34-day supply.
- ✦ Charge customer their Tier-1 (generic) co-pay.