

St. John Health System –SmartHealth Prescription Drug Program Changes:

Effective July 1, 2009, the following SmartHealth prescription drug program changes will take effect:

- Non-sedating antihistamines (i.e. Allegra®) will become non-covered drugs. The following low cost over-the-counter products will be available at St. John Pharmacies:

Over the Counter (OTC) Medication	Quantity	Cash Price
Generic Zyrtec® 10 mg	100	\$7.00
Generic Claritin® 10 mg	90	\$7.00

- Solid dosage forms (i.e. tablets, capsules) of the anti-ulcer medications, Histamine-2 receptor blockers (i.e. Zantac®), will become non-covered drugs. Liquid dosage forms (i.e. Zantac® syrup) intended for oral use, and available with a prescription, will remain covered.
- Coverage of proton pump inhibitors (PPI), such as Nexium®, Prevacid® and Protonix® which commonly are used to treat acid reflux disease, will be restricted to the following indications:
 - Zollinger-Ellison syndrome
 - Esophagitis with underlying Barrett's
 - Barrett's Esophagus
 - Erosive and/or Ulcerated Esophagitis (Grades III and IV Esophagitis)
 - Esophageal Stricture
 - History of or current diagnosis of gastric or stomach cancer
 - Current diagnosis of cancer **OR**
 - Patient is less than 18 years of age

Members presenting a first time prescription who are approved through the prior authorization process and qualify for a PPI, based on the above mentioned indications, will be required to use generic omeprazole for a period of three months before coverage of any other PPI will be authorized. Current members on a PPI, who qualify for coverage, will be eligible to continue their current PPI under the Plan.

Members who do not qualify for coverage, but wish to continue using a PPI have some options:

1. Pay the entire brand name cost of the prescription
2. Buy an over-the-counter product such as Prilosec OTC
3. Discuss with your doctor whether you should get a prescription for omeprazole

The St. John Pharmacy omeprazole cash prices are as follows:

Medication	Quantity	Cash Price
Rx Omeprazole 20 mg (with a prescription)	30	\$10.00
Generic Prilosec OTC 20 mg (without a prescription)	28	\$17.29