

<date>

<Member first name> <Member last name>
<Member address>
<City, STATE> <Zip>

Dear <Member first name> <Member last name>,

Our records show that you recently purchased <<medication name>>. In our continuing efforts to ensure ODS members are taking the safest, most effective and most cost-efficient medicines, we are changing the coverage of medications classified as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) for Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) members. This change will affect your coverage of <<medication name>>.

Why we're making this change

Recently, more PPI medications have become available as over-the-counter (OTC) medications. In prior years, very few OTC options were available. With such a limited selection, we chose not to change your coverage, but as more medications become available, this change supports our goal of providing you with safe, effective and cost-efficient medications.

When this change is effective

This change will go into effect on **July 1, 2012**, for members 18 years and older. Recently, multiple PPI over-the-counter (OTC) medications have become available, including:

- omeprazole OTC (brand name Prilosec OTC)
- lansoprazole OTC (brand name Prevacid OTC)
- Zegerid OTC

These OTC medications are just as safe and effective as the prescription versions of this medication, when taken within the recommended dosages.

Please consult with your provider about this change, so together, you and your provider can decide what the best medication option is for you.

This change is consistent with the ODS OEBB Member Handbook language. In October 2011, the language in your Member Handbook was updated to specify

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that products classified as over-the-counter (OTC) medications or products that have a direct OTC medication alternative would be excluded from the OEBC pharmacy plan. A copy of your Member Handbook is available at www.odscompanies.com/oebb/members/handbooks.shtml.

As your partner in health, we also want to inform you of recent developments regarding long-term use of PPIs. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued safety concerns related to long-term use of PPIs outside of the approved dosing durations. At this time, caution is limited to long-term use beyond the FDA-approved dosing recommendations. We urge members who are taking increased doses of these medications, or who have been taking a PPI for longer than one year to discuss treatment options with their physicians. To support these discussions, ODS sent information about the FDA's recommendations and concerns to prescribing physicians.

If you have any questions about the prescription coverage change, or the FDA's concerns related to long-term use of PPIs, please feel free to call ODS Pharmacy Customer Service at 503-265-2911, or toll-free at 866-923-0411.

If you are no longer taking this medication, please disregard this letter.

Sincerely,

ODS Pharmacy Services