

Important Notice of Plan Change

Impacting Pharmacy Benefits Effective 11/1/2016

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| Exclusion of Combination Drugs | Plan will exclude selected prescription drug products that have more than one active ingredient (sometimes called combination drugs); examples are Vimovo®, Duexis®, TussiCaps®. |
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Why is this necessary?

- The pricing for these drugs dramatically changed in March 2016 – a 335% increase!
- The number of prescriptions filled has gradually increased:
 - January & February averaged 44.5 prescriptions filled
 - March through July averaged 52 prescriptions filled
- These drugs were tracking to be over \$1 Million for 12 months vs. about \$300,000 previously.
- In order to protect your plan dollars immediate action was warranted!

What are Combination Drugs?

These drugs take two approved drugs that were less expensive and put them together in one pill resulting in a dramatic increase to the plan and member.

You **WILL** be able to fill the separate ingredient prescriptions under your plan.

Examples:

Vimovo – naproxen and esomeprazole– The price significantly increased this year - \$1,329.35 plan cost now per fill:

- Naproxen is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug to treat pain and reduce swelling– bit stronger than OTC aspirin – cost is \$5-\$9 for 60 tablets
- Esomeprazole is generic Nexium used to treat reflux – about \$60 per 30 capsules – not exactly cheap but comparatively it is!

Omeprazole-Sodium bicarbonate – This is omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate combined – generic Zegerid - \$1,635.88 plan cost per fill:

- Omeprazole – generic Prilosec – acid reducer runs under \$10 for 30 pills
- Sodium Bicarbonate – OTC drug under \$10 for 30 pills – also acid reducer