

Proton Pump Inhibitors

Quick Facts

Equivalent Meds

Brand	Generic Equivalent
Nexium	Pantoprazole (Protonix) or Omeprazole (Prilosec)
Aciphex	Pantoprazole (Protonix) or Omeprazole (Prilosec)
Prevacid	Pantoprazole (Protonix) or Omeprazole (Prilosec)
Prevacid Solu-Tabs	No Equivalent but may consider omeprazole in applesauce

Over-The-Counter Formulas

Omeprazole OTC (Prilosec OTC) is available in the 20 mg dose. If you write a prescription for omeprazole 20 mg, most healthplans will not pay for it because it is available "over the counter." If you write a prescription for omeprazole 40 mg, however, it is still considered a prescription medicine and should be covered by insurance and data will be submitted to the health plans.

Soluble Formulas

Prevacid is the only PPI available in a suspension formula, but Omeprazole capsules can be opened and mixed with certain foods (such as applesauce) for those patients that have dysphagia.

Initial Therapy

Initial therapy should always be instituted with a generic medication. If patient is currently well controlled on a brand medication but has never tried other PPIs, it is reasonable to attempt a switch to a generic, especially pantoprazole, as there is little clinical consequence to a temporary increase in symptoms if the trial period fails to show similar symptom control in the patient. If the patient has tried and failed omeprazole and pantoprazole, it is reasonable to continue the current PPI.