SUBJECT: Lansoprazole (Prevacid®) Step-up Therapy
INDEX TITLE: Clinical Pharmacy Services
ORIGINAl DATE: 10/01/08

This policy applies to the following lines of business: (Check those that apply.)

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I. POLICY

It is the policy of UPMC Health Plan to maintain a prior authorization process that promotes appropriate utilization of specific drugs with potential for misuse or limited indications. This process involves a review using Food and Drug Administration (FDA) criteria to make a determination of Medical Necessity, as defined in CRM.015-Medical Necessity, and approval by the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee of the criteria for prior authorization, as described in RX.003-Prior Authorization Process.

The drug, Lansoprazole (Prevacid) is subject to the prior authorization process.

II. DEFINITIONS

PPI – Proton Pump Inhibitor

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the prior authorization process for Lansoprazole (Prevacid) step-up therapy.

IV. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Pharmacy Services Department.
V. PROCEDURE

Omeprazole over-the-counter (OTC) is the preferred PPI for UPMC for You and UPMC for Kids members. Omeprazole OTC may be taken once or twice daily with no prior authorization needed.

UPMC Health Plan will cover Prevacid for members meeting one of the following prior authorization criteria for medical necessity:

- Pediatric members (<18 years of age)
- Members unable to swallow tablets, due to age (age <7) or medical condition (for example, NG tube)
- Members with a documented trial and failure of omeprazole OTC for > 2 weeks whose symptoms did not resolve with once or twice daily dosing. Chart documentation, of the trial and failure, including dates and reason for discontinuation, will be required.
- Members with documented adverse drug effects or contraindication to omeprazole OTC. Chart documentation of the adverse effect or contraindication and dates of trial of omeprazole OTC must be provided.

Limitations:
If a member does not meet the above approval criteria, the request will be referred to a UPMC Health Plan Medical Director for review.

Bibliography