

ABenefits Xtra

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Your Health & Benefits Awareness resource published
by the Human Resources Department at ABX Air, Inc.

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Prilosec OTC®

Prilosec® (known generically as *omeprazole*), the popular stomach acid control medication, is going over-the-counter. Beginning this month, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration has approved this drug for sale without a physician's prescription. The drug is being manufactured and sold under the trade name **Prilosec OTC®** by Cincinnati's own Proctor & Gamble. P&G is selling the drug under license from AstraZeneca, the pharmaceutical company that originally developed it. The medicine will be in pink tablets rather than the familiar purple capsule. The tablets will be sold in the same 20 mg dosage as the purple capsule.

Because this drug will be available over-the-counter, beginning Oct. 1, 2003, United Healthcare no longer will cover the brand name and generic versions of Prilosec. The suggested retail price of the Prilosec OTC is expected to be \$11.00 for a 14-day supply and \$39 for a 42-day supply. This equates to about \$20.70 for a 30-day supply.

Prilosec was the first in a series of drugs called "proton-pump inhibitors." In 2002, Prilosec cost the ABX health insurance plan \$176,718 and was the #1 most costly drug. Other drugs in this class include Nexium® (the #4 most costly) and Prevacid® (the #5 most costly). If everyone taking these drugs switched to Prilosec OTC, our health plan would save over \$331,000 a year. Before

switching you should check with your doctor. For more information about Prilosec OTC® visit their web site at www.prilosecotc.com.

What is Nexium®?

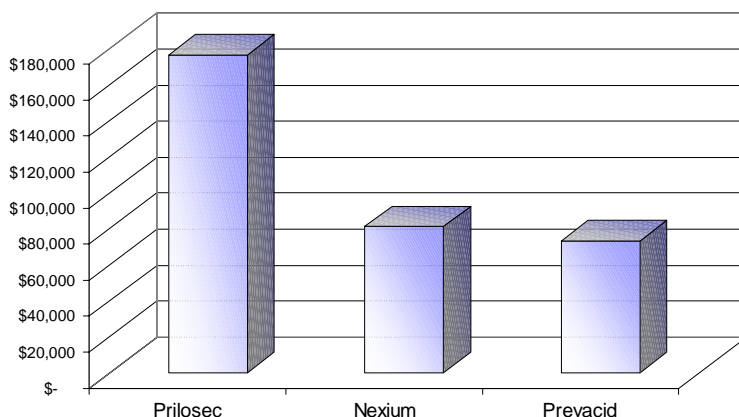
Nexium® (*omeprazole magnesium*) is the "follow-on" drug to Prilosec® developed by AstraZeneca. Prilosec® generated an estimated \$4.2 billion in sales last year for AstraZeneca. Because the patent on Prilosec finally expired in 2002 after several lengthy lawsuits delaying the expiration, AstraZeneca has been heavily promoting Nexium to consumers and physicians to get them to switch to Nexium.

Nexium has the same active ingredients as Prilosec with the addition of magnesium. By adding magnesium, AstraZeneca was able to obtain a new 17-year patent and will be able to continue to charge consumers approximately \$135 a month for what is essentially the same drug. While the addition of magnesium may have some medicinal value, many consumer advocates question the high extra cost.

As a consumer, you (along with your doctor) need to decide which is the best buy. Prilosec OTC (\$20.70 for a 30-day supply) or Nexium (Prilosec with magnesium / \$135 for a 30 day supply.) As they say on TV, don't waste your money!

ABX Snapshot

Cost to ABX Health Plan 2002



Questions & Answers

Q. Which benefits can I change during Open Enrollment?

A. During open enrollment, you may make changes to your health insurance election, voluntary accident insurance, and dependent care flexible spending account. Open enrollment is also a good time to review your universal life insurance election.

Q. What is the status on a health care clinic for ILN?

A. The clinic concept was placed temporarily on hold while the Benefits Department worked on transitioning benefits administration to the newly independent ABX Air. Now that this project is mostly complete, we plan to refocus on evaluating the concept of an on-base health care clinic in Wilmington.

Open Enrollment

November will be open enrollment month for health benefits. Employees may make changes to their health benefit elections and add or drop dependents. All open enrollment changes will become effective Jan. 1, 2004.

It's important for employees to carefully consider their benefit elections. Elections made during open enrollment will be locked in for the entire 2004 year. Employees may not make changes mid-year except for family and work status changes. Family and work status changes include marriage, divorce, birth/adoption of a child, death of dependent, or change in your or your spouse's work status that results in a significant change in health coverage.

More information about open enrollment will be distributed during the first week of November.

New Electronic Enrollment

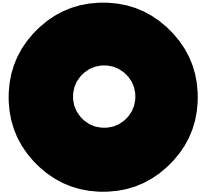
This year during open enrollment, ABX will be introducing a new web-based enrollment process. Using software called E-Beam that directly interfaces with the benefits database, employees will be able to review their benefit elections, update dependent information and make changes on-line during open enrollment. More information about the system will be included with the open enrollment information that will be distributed in early November.

New Benefits Handbook, New Format

This year during open enrollment, ABX will be distributing a new Benefits Handbook. The new handbook will contain the latest updated information about our benefits program.

The handbook will be distributed in a new format on a CD-ROM this year. In the employee benefits survey, 70 percent of employees indicated they had access to a home computer. By producing the Benefits Handbook on CD-ROM, the production cost is expected to be half of the cost of producing paper copies for every employee, resulting in a \$12,000 savings. In addition, an estimated one-half million pieces of paper will be saved resulting in an environmentally friendly product for employees.

Employees without computers still can request a paper copy during open enrollment.



Questions about Benefits

If you have questions, please send them to abx.benefits@airborne.com or via COMAT to Benefits Department, ILN/9C Mailstop 2061B. Questions of common interest may be published in the Q&A section of this newsletter. In addition, the ABX benefits web site will be updated with new information as it becomes available. The web site is available at www.abxair.com. Click on *Employee Connection* and then *Benefits Home* at the top of the *On the Inside* home page.

SAVE MONEY while you save lives

The Tri-County Mall in Cincinnati is hosting a Magical Evening of Giving to benefit the March of Dimes.

Contact any ABX WalkAmerica team member or visit the Company Store to purchase a \$5 wristband to receive access to the mall on Sunday, Nov. 16, from 6-9 p.m. for special discounts, door prizes, exclusive sales, and gifts with purchases.

Only patrons wearing these wristbands will be allowed to participate. Children under 12 are admitted free. All proceeds will be used in the March of Dimes' fight to understand and prevent premature births and infant mortality.