



October 23, 2009

Alert of Coverage Change in Prevacid[®] for Georgia Medicaid Fee-For-Service Members

Dear Dr. :

Starting January 1, 2010, Prevacid[®] (lansoprazole) capsules will no longer have preferred status on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) patients. This change was supported by the Department of Community Health's (DCH) Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB), which is comprised of physicians, pharmacists and a consumer advocate.

Both Nexium[®] (esomeprazole) and Kapidex[®] (dexlansoprazole) are preferred agents for your GA Medicaid FFS patients. If you deem clinically appropriate to switch your GA Medicaid FFS patients to Nexium[®] or Kapidex[®], please write a new prescription for these patients. For your GA Medicaid FFS patients that have a prior authorization (PA) in place for Prevacid[®] and that you write a new prescription for Nexium[®] or Kapidex[®], these patients will receive the preferred agent (Nexium[®] or Kapidex[®]) through the remaining PA period granted for Prevacid[®]. For your GA Medicaid FFS patients newly prescribed Nexium[®] or Kapidex[®] or those that do not have a PA in place for Prevacid[®], you can request a PA by contacting SXC at **1-866-525-5827**.

This letter is not intended to replace the medical care you provide to your patients. If you deem it clinically appropriate to maintain your Georgia Medicaid FFS patients on Prevacid[®], you can switch these patients to Prevacid[®] 24HR over-the counter (OTC) once it is available, which is anticipated to be in mid-November. **However, Prevacid[®] 24HR OTC will not be covered by GA Medicaid FFS.** Alternatively, you can request a new Prevacid[®] PA for your GA Medicaid FFS patients by contacting SXC at **1-866-525-5827**. We encourage you to submit the PA request prior to January 1, 2010.

For the full Georgia Medicaid FFS Preferred Drug List, please go to the Department of Community Health Website at <http://dch.georgia.gov>. Thank you for assisting Georgia Medicaid in providing continued access to prescription coverage through selecting cost-effective alternatives when appropriate. We appreciate you being a Georgia Medicaid FFS provider.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Community Health
Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program