



A plan for life.

## **CDPHP® Medicare Choices 2010 Step Therapy Guidelines**

The step therapy program is another form of prior authorization. The step therapy program uses a standard protocol to determine if members qualify for a drug that would otherwise not be covered. Using the standard protocol, certain drugs are not covered unless members have tried one or more “prerequisite therapy” medication(s) first. Prerequisite drugs are FDA approved and treat the same condition as the corresponding step-therapy drugs. If it is medically necessary for member to use a step therapy medication as initial therapy without trying a ‘prerequisite therapy” drug, you, your doctor or the person you appoint to manage your care can ask for a coverage determination if it is medically necessary for you to use a drug on the step-therapy list.

The following describes the drugs and steps required in CDPHP’s step therapy for PPI’s:

<b>THERAPEUTIC CLASS</b>	<b>STEP THERAPY DRUG</b>	<b>REQUIRED PREREQUISITE DRUG(S)</b>
<b>Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI)</b>	<b>Zegerid</b>	<b>60 day supply of omeprazole 20mg or omeprazole 40mg in the last 180 days</b>
	<b>pantoprazole</b>	<b>60 day supply of omeprazole 20mg or omeprazole 40mg in the last 180 days</b>

Requests for a drug that does not meet criteria outlined in the CDPHP Medicare Choices pharmacy step therapy or for an extension beyond what has been approved by CDPHP should be directed to the pharmacy department at (518) 641-3784 or 1-800-274-2332.

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