

Formulary Alert!



Washtenaw Health Plan
555 Towner Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

To: Washtenaw Health Plan Participating Pharmacies

From: Elizabeth Skrzypek RN, WHP Nurse Coordinator

Date: 2/8/2010

Re: Follow-up on \$4.00 drugs removed from the Plan B formulary effective 8-1-09

This is a follow-up memo regarding the formulary changes that were made effective August 1, 2009 for Washtenaw Health Plan (WHP) Plan B members only. Due to funding cuts, we removed many generic medications that are available at the \$4.00 discount programs as well as **all of the OTC medications except** for Prilosec (Omeprazole) OTC. *These changes do not affect the WHP Plan A member formulary.*

As a reminder, the WHP is NOT insurance. The WHP is a non-profit community-sponsored indigent care program that helps uninsured people receive medically necessary health care services. Neither the plan member nor their employer (if any) makes payments into a system that administers an insurance benefit.

The removal of these medications from our formulary is a significant cost savings to the WHP, *allowing us to continue to help people in the county who are low income and don't have access to health insurance.* In addition, because copays with the WHP formulary are \$5 for generics, it also offers a slight savings to our members.

I'm asking for your assistance to help our WHP Plan B members when they bring a prescription to your pharmacy that is not covered by the WHP. If you have a \$4 or low-cost program at your pharmacy and the medication is available through that program please suggest it to them. If it is an OTC medication that is no longer covered please advise them on the low cost alternatives. If they need a more costly medication that is not covered, you can refer them to me to see what other resources would be available.

Access to our WHP formulary and Plan A and Plan B Quick lists can be found on the WHP website at <http://whp.ewashtenaw.org>. You can use the information on the web site for your own information or to help customers identify possible alternatives. I hope this information is helpful and I appreciate all that you do for our members. If you have any other questions or suggestions, please call or email me using the contact information listed below.

Thank you!

Elizabeth Skrzypek RN, WHP Nurse Coordinator

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