



## BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma

A Member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association,  
an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

1215 S. Boulder  
P.O. Box 3283  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74102-3283  
Telephone: (918) 560-3500

August 2004

Dear Physician,

In April 2004, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma and BlueLincs HMO added the Proton Pump Inhibitors, (PPI) Aciphex® and Protonix®, to the second tier of the three-tier formulary.

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, comprised of local physicians and pharmacists, has recommended prior authorization for any Tier III PPI (such as Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Nexium®), after extensive review of studies that show minimal differences among the PPIs. Prior authorization will be required, effective Oct. 1, 2004.

Please review the enclosed prior authorization process flow chart. If you have any questions regarding the flow chart or prior authorization, please contact me at (918) 561-9906 or by e-mail at [rcwhite@bcbsok.com](mailto:rcwhite@bcbsok.com).

To view the most current version of the three-tier formulary, visit [www.bcbsok.com](http://www.bcbsok.com) and click on the pharmacy link, or contact your provider relations consultant to request the printed version.

Thank you for your assistance in making this formulary change and for helping to ensure quality care for our members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron White, D.Ph.".

Ron White, D.Ph.  
Manager, Pharmacy Programs

# Proton Pump Inhibitor Step Therapy Process Description

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma and BlueLincs HMO

