



Greenville Ear, Nose & Throat

Medications for Reflux

You have been prescribed a medication to treat reflux. Typically, this type of medicine falls into a group called “proton pump inhibitors” and have brand names such as Prilosec, Prevacid, Nexium, Dexilant and Aciphex. They usually are taken once a day, but sometimes we recommend more aggressive treatment with twice a day.

You may find that different insurance and drug plans cover some medications better than others based on your co-pay amount. Newer medications often cost more than older ones or, in the case of Prilosec, ones that have a generic option. Insurance companies also may not approve stronger doses of medication as easily.

If you think the medication that has been prescribed is expensive, check with your pharmacist or insurance provider to see if an alternative medicine that costs less is available. If that is the case and the effects of the medicine are similar, then we probably can prescribe the less costly drug.

Depending on the severity of your reflux, a smaller dose of medication may not be as effective. A trial of this dose (if you have not been on it before) may be needed before your insurance company approves a stronger dose.

Because of the many different insurance and drug plans, it is hard for us to keep up with all of them, so we may not know which medication is preferred by your plan. If your insurance plan requires prior authorization and can provide a form for us to fill out with the information needed, we are happy to do so as a convenience to you.