

## Answers to Your Questions about the Gastroprotective NSAID Preauthorization Program

Preauthorization programs target higher cost drugs that have lower cost alternatives. Typically, these less expensive drugs provide the same or greater level of safety and effectiveness to treat a particular condition as their more costly counterparts. Your coverage includes a preauthorization program for Gastroprotective nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

### **What are Gastroprotective NSAIDs?**

Gastroprotective NSAIDs is a category of drugs that includes the brand-name drugs Celebrex® and Vimovo™. They work similarly to naproxen (an active ingredient in Vimovo) and ibuprofen in treating inflammation and reducing pain. Naproxen and ibuprofen belong to a group of drugs called non-selective NSAIDs – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. In most cases, non-selective NSAIDs are as effective as gastroprotective NSAID drugs, but generic NSAIDs are far less expensive.

### **Why are gastroprotective NSAIDs included in the preauthorization program?**

Clinical studies show that NSAIDs are a safe and effective treatment option for most patients. Studies also suggest that gastroprotective NSAID medications may be an appropriate treatment for patients who are at higher risk for stomach ulcers.



Unfortunately, the vast majority of patients – with no or low risk for stomach ulcers – continue to take gastroprotective NSAID drugs needlessly when non-selective NSAIDs may be the more cost-effective treatment option.

Because brand-name gastroprotective NSAID medications are several times more expensive than generic NSAIDs, they generally cost a health plan, your employer, and you considerably more money.



The ultimate decision regarding your treatment rests with you and your doctor. Preauthorization gives you and your doctor a tool to make the right decision based on:

- Better health
- Lower out-of-pocket cost – lower copayment or coinsurance
- Built-in safety/protection



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