



Prescription Drug Co-Pays

As per page 3 of our 2006-2011 contract [Fact Sheet](#), **co-pays** for prescriptions are as follows:

	As of 12/30/08	As of 1/1/11
Generic Drugs	\$ 0	\$ 0
Brand Name Drugs	\$ 20	\$ 25
Non Preferred Brand Drugs	\$ 40	\$ 50
Allergy (NSA) Drugs *	\$ 50	\$ 50
PPI Drugs *	\$ 50	\$ 50

The co-pays above are for the 1st and refilled 2nd prescriptions for 30 day supplies. **The 3rd (third) prescription** (on-going maintenance prescriptions), good for a 3 month supply, must be via mail order and will be 2 X (double) the co-pay amount above.

To save money, Generic drugs should be considered for non “Tier 4” drugs. Ask you doctor to prescribe generics.

* **Tier 4 Drugs:** MEDCO and the County have labeled a “class of drugs” that includes Allergy and PPI medications as “Tier 4”. Per the CSEA agreement, this class of drugs will require either the \$50 or the \$100 co-pay regardless if they are Generic or Brand name.

You may see “Tier 4” on the MEDCO web site and on statements. For Tier 4 Drugs, \$50 will be the co-pay for the 1st and 2nd prescription (a refill) but will require a co-pay of 2 X \$50 (double \$ 50 = \$100) for the third mail order refill good for a 3 month supply.

Allergy Medications, also known as Non Sedating Antihistamines (NSAs) are used to alleviate runny noses, sneezing, watery eyes, and other symptoms of allergies. Examples of these include Zyrtec, Claritin, Allegra, Clarinex, fexofenadine, cetirizine, and loratadine. There are others.

Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI) is a group of medications that decrease the amount of acid in the stomach and intestines. (Proton Pumps are the cells of the stomach that produce acid). Doctors prescribe PPIs to treat people with reflux disease, ulcers, stress gastritis, peptic ulcer disease, and other digestive disorders with excess stomach acid. Examples of these are Nexium, Prevacid, Prilosec, esomeprazole, lansoprazole, and omeprazole. There are others.

To save money, the Over the Counter (OTC) alternatives to the prescription versions of any Allergy (NSAs) and PPI drugs should be considered.

Please work with your doctor to learn about OTC alternatives that will alleviate the allergy or stomach acid condition to avoid the \$50 or \$100 co-pay required with this class of drugs. Warehouse stores such as Costco have the best prices on OTC brand name and generic drugs.