



# Provider Newsflash



A fax bulletin for the Molina Healthcare of Washington Provider Network

## Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) (Medicaid)

Molina Healthcare is required by the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to enforce limits on proton pump inhibitor (PPI) prescriptions for Apple Health (Medicaid) members. This policy was implemented on June 1, 2017, but continues to impact our members today.

### Policy Summary:

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) covered without prior authorization for short-term management of gastric acid-related conditions at a dose of one tablet or capsule per day. Coverage is limited to a **maximum of two months within any 12-month period**. An additional one month may be authorized upon prior authorization request to support tapering and appropriate discontinuation.

**Exceptions** may be approved for members with certain **chronic conditions** (e.g., Barrett's esophagus, peptic ulcers) or those on **high-risk medications** (e.g., NSAIDs, anticoagulants, steroids). Providers must request authorization for extended use.

### Why This Matters:

Long-term or high-dose PPI use increases risks of serious side effects, including nutrient deficiencies, fractures, and infections. Most GERD symptoms will be resolved within 8 weeks. Tapering PPIs over 30 days, supported by an H2 blocker (e.g., ranitidine), is recommended to prevent rebound reflux.

### Provider Action Steps:

- Reassess PPI therapy for Molina members
- Taper and transition to H2RA when appropriate
- Submit prior authorization for qualifying members