

PROTON-PUMP INHIBITOR CLASS DRUGS DROP IN THE MAXIMUM PRICE PAYABLE

Since July 24, 2015, the maximum price payable (MPP) for proton-pump inhibitor (PPI) class drugs, used to treat gastrointestinal problems, went from \$0.55 to \$0.3628 per tablet or capsule for persons insured under the Public Prescription Drug Insurance Program.

Why is this change being made?

PPIs are expensive drugs with a unit price that may vary three-fold. After the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux recognized that these drugs were equally effective therapeutically, a decision was made to review the amount reimbursed for these products so that the resulting savings could be reinvested elsewhere in the health system.

What drugs are part of the PPI class?

PPIs include Pariet™ (rabeprazole) and its generics, Prevacid™ (lansoprazole) and its generics, Pantoloc™ (pantoprazole) and its generics, Tecta™ (pantoprazole), Losec™ (omeprazole) and its generics, Nexium™ (esomeprazole) and its generics, and Dexilant™ (dexlansoprazole).

What is a maximum price payable (MMP)?

The MMP is the maximum price, set at \$0.3628 per tablet, that the Régie pays for a drug. Because of the MMP, you may at times have to pay an excess amount, corresponding to the difference between the price required by an IPP drug manufacturer and the MMP. This excess amount is not taken into account, however, in the calculation of your maximum monthly contribution.

It should be noted that since 2007, certain drugs on the *List of Medications* have an MMP.

Are all persons insured under the public plan who take PPIs affected by the change?

No. In most cases, insured persons will not have to pay any excess amount.

My prescription drug costs more than \$0.3628 per tablet and I don't want to pay the excess amount. What should I do?

You may choose to receive a generic version of the prescription drug suggested by your pharmacist. Otherwise, you must obtain a new prescription for a drug that is similarly effective therapeutically.

Will my new drug be equally effective?

All PPIs are similarly effective at the therapeutic level. Feel free to talk to your health professional if you have any other questions about your prescription drugs.

For further information,
go to the website of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
at **www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca** or the website of the Institut national
d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux at **www.inesss.qc.ca**.