



Medication Examination

NARRATOR:

The phrase “Just what the doctor ordered,” may not always ring true at your local pharmacy.

Sometimes you may not get the medication your physician prescribes due to “therapeutic substitution,” which is switching the prescribed branded medication to a generic in the same class.¹

Pharmacists are required to consult with you and your healthcare provider before making this switch. Knowing your patient rights can help guide conversations with your provider and pharmacist if you receive a substitute for your medication.

There are several prescription medications available in one class of drugs—but not all drugs in one category are the same. For example, proton pump inhibitors—or PPIs—are effective treatments for acid reflux disease.

There are five prescription PPIs, and not all have generic equivalents.

NEXIUM[®] or esomeprazole magnesium, has no generic equivalent. It’s used to treat acid reflux disease, and also prescribed to heal damage to the esophagus called erosive esophagitis.²

Not all medications work the same for patients. When your doctor prescribes a medication, it’s because they feel it’s the right one for you. LeAnn Poole, a licensed pharmacist for AstraZeneca, is here to share tips on how to ensure you get what you’ve been prescribed.

LEANN POOLE:

- Ask your doctor to write "may not substitute" or "dispense as written" on the prescription.
- Understand why you’ve been prescribed a specific medication. Take time to ask your physician and pharmacist questions and ensure you’re getting the medicine you’ve been prescribed.
- Know what your medication looks like.
- Have your physician or pharmacist put a note in your file that states you take a particular medication and not to switch it.

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Side effects with NEXIUM include headache, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Symptom relief does not rule out other serious stomach conditions.

Rarely bone fractures have been seen with chronic use.

Patients should read the Important Safety Information for NEXIUM, which can be found at Purple Pill.com, by calling 800-236-9933, or from their healthcare professional.

Brought to you by AstraZeneca

References

1. ASPE Issue Brief, Dec. 1, 2010. “Expanding the Use of Generic Drugs.” Available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/sp/reports/2010/GenericDrugs/ib.pdf>. Accessed on Jan. 14, 2011.
2. [Prescribing Information for NEXIUM](#). AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Wilmington, DE.