

A pediatrician's guide to proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) for patients with MassHealth

The MassHealth Drug List (MHDL) includes multiple proton pump inhibitor (PPI) formulations that are available using SmartPA (an automated authorization process at the pharmacy that does not require a request from the prescriber) or without PA. The following information is subject to change with future MHDL updates. Effective May 12, 2025, the following products are available via SmartPA or without PA:

For smaller patients (≤20 mg per dose):	For larger patients (>20 mg per dose) when tablets or whole capsules cannot be used:	When tablets or whole capsules are appropriate:
- Nexium (esomeprazole) powder for suspension 2.5 mg, 5 mg, or 10 mg packets (*brand over generic list; limit 1 unit/day if age ≥2 years). - Lansoprazole delayed release 15mg capsule (limit 1 unit/day). Can be sprinkled on food or in juice - Prevacid (lansoprazole delayed release) 15 mg ODT (*brand over generic list). Can be dissolved in water and administered by syringe. - Omeprazole delayed release 10 mg capsule (limit 1 unit/day). Can be sprinkled on food. Not recommended for feeding tube. - Omeprazole delayed release 20 mg capsule (limit 4 units/day). Can be sprinkled on food. Not recommended for feeding tube. - Omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate powder for suspension 20 mg / 1680 mg packet. Not FDA approved for pediatric use, but sometimes used off-label.	- Esomeprazole magnesium 20 mg or 40 mg capsule (limit 1 unit/day if age ≥13 years). Can be sprinkled on food but not chewed. Can be administered via feeding tube. - Lansoprazole delayed release 30 mg capsule (limit 1 unit/day if age ≥13 years). Can be sprinkled on food or in juice. - Prevacid (lansoprazole delayed release) 30 mg ODT (*brand over generic list). Can be dissolved in water and administered by syringe. - Omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate powder for suspension 40 mg / 1680 mg packet. Not FDA approved for pediatric use, but sometimes used off-label. - Omeprazole delayed release 40 mg capsule (limit 2 units/day). Can be sprinkled on food. Not recommended for feeding tube. - Protonix (pantoprazole) powder for suspension 40 mg packet (*brand over generic list).	- Esomeprazole magnesium 20 mg or 40 mg capsule (limit 1 unit/day if age ≥13 years). - Lansoprazole delayed release 15 mg or 30 mg capsule (limit 1 unit/day if age ≥13 years). - Prevacid (lansoprazole delayed release) 15 mg or 30 mg ODT (*brand over generic list) - Omeprazole delayed release 20 mg capsule (limit 4 units/day if age ≥13 years). - Omeprazole delayed release 40 mg capsule (limit 2 units/day if age ≥13 years). - Omeprazole and sodium bicarbonate 20 mg / 1100 mg capsule or 40 mg / 1100 mg capsule. Not FDA approved for pediatric use, but sometimes used off-label. Capsule should not be opened. - Pantoprazole 20 mg or 40 mg tablet (limit 4 units/day if age ≥13 years). - Rabeprazole delayed release 20 mg tablet (limit 1 unit/day if age ≥13 years).

*When ordering drugs on MassHealth's brand preferred over generic drug list, prescribers should not write "brand name necessary" or "dispense as written" (DAW-1). Pharmacists can dispense brand name drugs that MassHealth prefers from prescriptions written using the generic name by submitting code DAW-9. Prescriptions written with a "brand name only" or "dispense as written" (DAW-1) flag will trigger a prior authorization.

When a patient's needs cannot be met with the products and quantity limits above, other PPI products are available on the MHDL with PA. When submitting a PA request, be sure to provide medical records documenting that the criteria for approval are met (see <https://mhd1.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/pubtheradetail.do?id=3>).

DAW: dispense as written; MHDL: MassHealth Drug List; ODT: oral disintegrating tablet; PA: prior authorization; PPI: proton pump inhibitor