



The use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) in the United States has increased over recent years. In 2009, 119 million prescriptions for PPIs accounted for \$13.6 billion in sales, making this class of drugs the third most profitable class of drugs in this country. In 2010, esomeprazole (Nexium) alone accounted for \$2.6 billion in sales. Studies have shown that generic PPIs are similarly effective and cost at least \$200 less per month than a comparable brand-name drug.

According to Consumer Reports, a 30-day supply of Nexium 40mg is \$248 as opposed to \$24 for an comparable supply of generic omeprazole which has equivalent therapeutic efficacy. Consequently, many insurance companies require preauthorization for Nexium because there are generic options.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that:

- Many patients are discharged from New York