FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking omeprazole safely

Prilosec OTC or Rx · acid reducer · know which rules apply

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. **Mixing up OTC and Rx rules**
   OTC: a 14-day course, repeated no more than every 4 months. Rx: before a meal, as directed.
2. **Missing a dangerous mix**
   Never with rilpivirine HIV medicines. Avoid clopidogrel, St. John's wort, and rifampin.
3. **Ignoring a warning sign**
   Trouble swallowing, vomiting blood, black or bloody stools, or chest pain with shortness of breath need a doctor's evaluation first.

OTC (Prilosec OTC)

- **Swallow 1 tablet whole before eating** in the morning, for **14 days**. Do not chew, crush, or suck it.
- May take **1-4 days** for full effect. For adults 18 and older only.
- You may repeat a 14-day course, but **not more often than every 4 months**, unless your doctor says otherwise.

Prescription omeprazole

- Take **before a meal**, for as long as your doctor directs.
- **Missed a dose?** Take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is almost due, skip it — never take 2 doses together.

Never or avoid together

- **Never** with rilpivirine HIV medicines (Edurant, Complera, Odefsey, Juluca).
- **Avoid** with clopidogrel (Plavix), St. John's wort, and rifampin.
- Tell us if you take **methotrexate** or **warfarin** — both need extra monitoring.

IMPORTANT

See a doctor before using omeprazole if you have trouble or pain swallowing, vomiting blood, black or bloody stools, or chest or shoulder pain with shortness of breath, sweating, or lightheadedness — these may be signs of a serious condition.

With the OTC product, stop and see a doctor if

- Heartburn continues, worsens, or lasts more than 14 days
- You've had heartburn for over 3 months, or have wheezing, nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain with it

Long-term use (years)

- Can lower vitamin B12 and magnesium, and raise bone fracture risk. Low magnesium can cause seizures, an irregular heartbeat, or muscle spasms.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911

Skin reddening, blisters, or a rash: stop omeprazole and get medical help right away.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.

Source: FDA Drug Facts for PRILOSEC OTC (rev. 10/2026) and prescribing information for omeprazole delayed-release capsules (rev. 9/2026). PRILOSEC is a trademark of its o

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