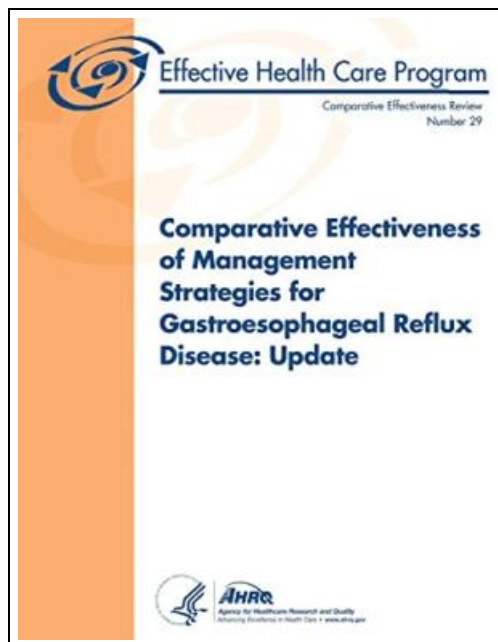


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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is one of the most common health conditions affecting Americans. A study of an employed population in the U.S. estimated that more than 11,000 of 267,000 employees (4) suffered from GERD, contributing an average incremental cost to the employer of \$3,355 per employee during a 3-year observation period-approximately 65 related to prescription drugs. At the same time, it is well recognized that some drugs used to treat GERD (such as proton pump inhibitors) are overprescribed. A number of patients have frequent severe symptoms requiring long-term regular use of antireflux medications. For these individuals with chronic GERD, most authorities consider the goals of therapy to be an improvement in symptoms and quality of life, healing and maintenance of healed erosive esophagitis, and prevention of complications. However, there remains considerable uncertainty regarding how these objectives should be achieved. Among patients treated medically, several approaches are used, depending in part on the severity of symptoms and clinical response. These include intermittent, periodic, or continuous use of prescription or over-the-counter medications, especially histamine type 2 receptor antagonists (H2RAs) and proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). The availability of surgery and, more recently, endoscopic treatments has further complicated the choice among management strategies. The first Comparative Effectiveness Review (CER) published by the AHRQ focused on GERD. Key Questions addressed in that report concerned the comparative effectiveness of medical, surgical, and endoscopic treatments for improving objective and subjective outcomes in patients with this disease. The report also examined the relative efficacy of these interventions in specific patient subgroups as well as adverse event profiles. A number of developments since the publication of the 2005 review have necessitated an update. Among them are the publication of approx....



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