

Ways to Save with Generic Drugs

Take control & save on your drug costs

You can save money on prescription drugs by switching to generics. Generic drugs are proven to be just as safe and effective as their brand-name counterparts. The difference? Name and price.

What are generics?

- Generics work the same as brand-name drugs, but cost much less.
- A generic drug is essentially a copy of a brand-name drug. It contains the same active ingredients and is identical in dosage, safety, strength, how it's taken, quality, performance and intended use.
- Generic drugs are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Generic drugs are manufactured in facilities that are required to meet the same FDA standards of good manufacturing practices as brand-name products.¹

Save by using generic drugs

- Generic drugs are less expensive than brand-name medications.
- A study by the FDA concluded that consumers who are able to replace all their branded prescriptions with generics can save up to 52% on their daily drug costs.²

FDA-approved generic drugs account for 90% of the prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. Having more generic drugs available reduces health care costs which increases access to medications and helps prevent shortages.

Here's an example of how much you could save by switching to a generic alternative.

Brand name	Generic name	Average monthly cost* of brand	Average monthly cost* of generic	Monthly savings if using generic
Ambien (10mg)	Zolpidem Tartrate	\$474	\$1	\$473
Coumadin (2mg)	Warfarin Sodium	\$169	\$8	\$161
Singulair (10mg)	Montelukast Sodium	\$200	\$6	\$194

* Costs based on CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield November 2018–April 2019 claims at CVS pharmacies and rounded to the nearest dollar.

¹ FDA, Safety, Efficacy, and Quality Remain Top Priorities as We Continue Our Work to Expand Access to Cost-Saving Generic Drugs for the American Public, <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-voices-perspectives-fda-leadership-and-experts/safety-efficacy-and-quality-remain-top-priorities-we-continue-our-work-expand-access-cost-saving>, accessed September 16, 2019.

² FDA, Savings from Generic Drugs Purchased at Retail Pharmacies, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resourcesforyou/ucm134205.htm>, accessed September 16, 2019.



How do I switch to a generic drug?

You can ask your doctor or pharmacist if any of the prescription medications you are currently taking can be filled with a generic alternative. To find out if there are lower cost drugs available, including generics, which can be used to treat your condition:

- Visit the Drug Search section on carefirst.com/rxgroup and review the Preferred Drug List for your formulary.
- Print the list and take it with you to your doctor.
- Ask your doctor if a generic drug could work for you.

How we help you save

To help you get the most savings, our pharmacy benefit manager, CVS Caremark* notifies members by mail about opportunities to save with generic drugs.

- If you fill a prescription for a non-preferred brand drug you will receive a personalized letter from CVS Caremark with available lower-cost generic alternative options plus steps for changing to a generic alternative.
- Plus, a letter will be enclosed that you can take to your doctor on your next visit.

*CVS Caremark is an independent company that provides pharmacy benefit management services.