

Take your medicine. Keep your money.

How you can safely lower the cost of your medications

If you could pay less for your medications without any added risk to your health and safety, you would do it, right? Here's one way to help keep costs down for you and your health plan. If you are taking a brand-name medication that has a generic version, you could save a substantial amount of money—up to 60 percent of your out-of-pocket costs.¹

The difference between generics and brand-name drugs:

Generic medications and their brand-name counterparts contain exactly the same active ingredient in the same strength and purity. There may be coloring or other inert ingredients that make medications look different. In terms of how they work, however, they are exactly the same.

Generics are safe and effective.

FDA²-approved generic medications are safe and as effective as their brand-name counterparts. In fact, over 60 percent of all prescriptions filled in the United States are for generics.³

Why generics cost so much less.

It costs a lot of money to create a new drug and bring it to market. Generic manufacturers don't have those expenses, so the medications they produce can cost significantly less for the exact same ingredients, strengths, and doses.

Talk to your doctor about generics.

Most doctors prescribe generic medications on a routine basis. Your doctor, however, may not be aware that you can save money by taking generics. It always pays to ask if a generic medication is available and appropriate for you.

Find out how much you can save.

For personalized information on generics and other lower cost medications, visit **My Rx Choices**[®] at www.medco.com/choices, or call 1 800 319-7750.

1. Based on Medco book of business analysis for claims processed April–June 2007.

2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration

3. *New York Times*, September 21, 2007, "Helped by Generics, Inflation of Drug Costs Slows."

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