



## Maximize Your Prescription Drug Benefits by Talking with Your Doctor about these Cost-Saving Tips

GENERICS		
Question	Example	Your Costs
<b>Is there a generic alternative for your brand-name medication?</b>	The brand name antidepressant medication Celexa has an FDA approved generic drug equivalent Citalopram	<b>\$236.16</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Celexa 20mg <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of Citalopram 20mg
<b>Is there a generic medication that is therapeutically equivalent (same mechanism of action) to the brand-name drug you are taking?</b>	The brand-name heartburn medication Prevacid has a therapeutically equivalent generic drug Omeprazole. Prevacid and Omeprazole have the same mechanism of action; they are both Proton Pump Inhibitors.	<b>\$194.67</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Prevacid 30mg <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of Omeprazole 20mg
<b>Are you missing out on the opportunity to take a generic drug equivalent of a brand-name medication that was reformulated by a pharmaceutical company?</b>	Prior to the patent expiration of Forest Pharmaceuticals' antidepressant drug Celexa, Forest reformulated (separated active enantiomer) Celexa into the drug Lexapro. Other examples are Prilosec was reformulated to Nexium, Claritin to Clarinex, Ritalin to Focalin etc. In 2007 Effexor XR will be reformulated to Desvenlafaxine XR, Flonase to Allermist and Zyrtec to Xyzal.	<b>\$59.86</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Lexapro 10mg <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of generic Celexa 20mg (Citalopram)
	Prior to the patent expiration of GlaxoSmithKline's antidepressant medication Wellbutrin SR, GSK reformulated its 12 hour acting Wellbutrin SR into the 24 hour acting Wellbutrin XL.	<b>\$113.08</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Wellbutrin XL 300mg taken once daily <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of generic Wellbutrin SR 150mg taken twice daily (Bupropion SR)
<b>Is there a generic alternative for your brand-name medication becoming available in 2007?</b>	Brand-name drugs with patents expected to expire in 2007: Wellbutrin XL, Ambien and Norvasc.	<b>\$52.40</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Norvasc 10mg <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of Amlodipine (generic Norvasc)
COMBINATION MEDICATIONS		
<b>Is there a combination medication available for the two drugs you are taking?</b>	To treat high blood pressure, a large number of people take more than one medication	<b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of benazepril 20mg <b>\$3.08</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of hydrochlorothiazide 25mg <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of the combination medication benazepril 20mg / hydrochlorothiazide 25mg
<b>Is the brand-name combination medication you are taking made of two available generic medications?</b>	To help with shortness of breath caused by asthma, individuals may inhale ipratropium and albuterol or the combination medication Duoneb (ipratropium/albuterol)	<b>\$332.76</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of Duoneb <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of ipratropium <b>\$10.00</b> Copayment for a 90-day supply of albuterol

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**Note:** As always, you and your doctor make the final decision on what medications are right for you. This document does not dictate or control decisions regarding appropriate care, it is meant to create dialogue between you and your physician.

## Cost-Saving Tips, continued

<b>FORMULARY MEDICATIONS</b>		
Question	Example	Your Costs
<p><b>Is there a formulary brand-name medication that is therapeutically equivalent (same mechanism of action) to the non-formulary brand-name drug you are taking?</b></p>	<p>The non-formulary brand-name heartburn medication Prevacid has a therapeutically equivalent formulary brand-name drug Protonix. Prevacid and Protonix have the same mechanism of action; they are both Proton Pump Inhibitors.</p>	<p><b>\$194.67</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Prevacid  <b>\$90.13</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Protonix</p>
<b>OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) MEDICATIONS</b>		
<p><b>Is there an OTC medication that is therapeutically equivalent (same mechanism of action) to the brand-name drug you are taking?</b></p>	<p>The brand-name allergy medication Clarinex has a therapeutically equivalent OTC drug Claritin (loratidine). Clarinex and Claritin (loratidine) OTC have the same mechanism of action.</p>	<p><b>\$112.78</b> Coinsurance for a 90-day supply of Clarinex 5mg  <b>\$70.44</b> Cost for a 90-day supply of OTC Claritin 10mg*  <b>\$15.84</b> Cost for a 300-day supply of OTC loratidine 10mg (Sam's Club)<sup>1</sup></p> <p><i><sup>1</sup>OTC costs may vary depending upon where they are purchased</i></p>

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