



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PHARMACY BENEFIT

Generics vs. Brands

Understanding why generics aren't always more affordable

Generic drugs are usually less expensive than brand drugs under your pharmacy benefit — but not always. When a new generic drug is first available, the generic drug can cost more than its brand counterpart.

As your pharmacy benefit manager (PBM), MedImpact has strategies to help lower overall healthcare costs for you and your health plan.

To help ensure you are getting the best value for your medicine, the pharmacy may give you a brand drug instead of a generic drug.

What you need to know:

- Your out-of-pocket cost for the brand drug will be the same or less than it was prior to the release of the new generic drug
- You will not receive the more expensive generic drug at the pharmacy
- You don't need to do anything! Once the generic becomes less expensive than the brand, your pharmacy will automatically fill the lower cost generic drug

How long will I get the brand drug?

The time frame may change depending on the drug. MedImpact monitors all the drugs on your formulary (the list of drugs covered by your plan) on a monthly basis.

By keeping prescription costs lower, you may save on your premium and overall healthcare costs.



What's the difference between a generic and brand drug?

Generic drugs have the same active ingredients and dosage as their brand-name counterparts. The color, markings, or pill shape may look different. Generics are just as safe and effective as brand drugs and treat your condition the same way.

Brand drugs are sold by one manufacturer, protected by a patent, and are marketed with a specific name or trademark. When the patent ends, other companies can sell a generic version, which leads to competition in the market and usually lowers drug costs.

Before or after a brand drug patent expires, the manufacturer can release an **"authorized generic."** The availability and cost of authorized generics are set by the brand manufacturer rather than a competing generic manufacturer, which can result in higher drug prices.