



Your doctor can help you save.
All you need to do is ask.

Medco has advanced the practice of pharmacy to improve health and lower the total cost of care for our members. Providing you with lower cost options to discuss with your doctor is just one way Medco helps you save.



How to talk to your doctor about saving with generic drugs

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Most doctors want to help keep their patients' healthcare costs affordable.

However, some doctors may not know when generic drugs become available and that they typically cost 50 percent to 70 percent less than brand-name drugs.

We encourage you to talk to your doctor about generic drugs and how you could reduce your prescription costs.

Here are three questions you can ask whenever your doctor prescribes a brand-name drug (and why it is okay to ask).

1. Is there a generic drug that I can take instead of the brand-name drug you've prescribed?

Doctors often have several medication options they can prescribe for your condition. Generic drugs account for more than half of all prescriptions. If your brand-name drug does not have an equivalent generic drug, there may be another generic available to treat your condition.

2. Will a generic drug provide effective treatment for me?

The FDA has indicated that generic drugs can be expected to work as well as the original brand-name drugs, because generic drugs have the same active ingredients. FDA-approved generic drugs also have the same quality and strength as brand-name drugs. You and your doctor can determine if generic drugs are right for you.

3. Would a 90-day supply of medication be appropriate for me?

If you use a medication on a long-term basis, you could save the most money by ordering a 90-day supply of a generic drug through **Medco By Mail**, your plan's convenient mail-order pharmacy.

To get started with mail order, call us toll-free at 1 800 MEDCO-MAIL (1 800 633-2662). We will help you get started.

Why pay more than you need to for your medications?

Take a few minutes today to speak to your doctor about lower-cost generic drugs.



If you need additional information:

- Visit us online at www.medco.com.
- Call the Member Services toll-free number shown on your prescription drug ID card.

Fast facts about FDA-approved generic drugs

- Generic drugs have the same active ingredients as the original brand-name drugs.
- Generic drugs have the same quality and strength as brand-name drugs.
- Generic drugs must meet the same strict FDA manufacturing standards as brand-name drugs.
- Generic drugs cost up to 70 percent less than brand-name drugs.*

*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Testimony of Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, on Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Program before the Senate Finance Committee [press release]. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/testimony.asp?Counter=1091>. Accessed August 9, 2006.

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.