BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico

Generic Drugs May Save You Money

They are safe, effective and approved by the FDA. Talk to your doctor to see if using generic drugs is an option for you.

What is a generic drug?

A generic drug is a version of a brand-name drug and is also approved by the FDA. When compared to the brand-name drug a generic drug is safe and works just as well in the body for most people. But the generic drug often costs less.

There are two types of generics:

- A **generic equivalent** is made with the same active ingredient(s) at the same dose as the brand-name drug.
- A **generic alternative** is often used to treat the same condition, but the active ingredient(s) differ from the brand-name drug.

Your pharmacist can often fill a prescription with a generic equivalent without a new prescription from your doctor. But only you and your doctor can decide if a generic alternative is right for you. And if right for you, your doctor will need to write your prescription for that medicine.

You may pay less for generic drugs.

Some benefit plans offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico (BCBSNM) use a prescription drug list, which is a list of drugs covered by your plan. If your plan is based on a drug list, how much you pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs depends on whether the drug is on the list. Your drug list may also have different levels of coverage, called "tiers." When you choose drugs in lower tiers, you may pay less. Generics are often in the lower tiers.

Members whose plan does not include a drug list often pay less out-of-pocket for generic drugs as well.

Be informed. Talk to your doctor. Start saving now.

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Generics are available for many brand drugs.

Generic alternatives are available for many brand drugs which may not currently have a generic equivalent, including those listed in the chart to the right. If you are taking one of these brand drugs, ask your doctor if a generic is right for you. This may save you money as well.

Get the most from your pharmacy benefit.

Consider using generic drugs and follow these tips to help you get the most from your benefits:

- Ask your doctor to check the prescription drug list when recommending prescription drug options for you. Drugs on the list are chosen based on their safety, cost and how well they work.
- When you fill a prescription, use an in-network pharmacy and show your member ID card.
- Go to **bcbsnm.com** and log into **Blue Access for Members℠ (BAM℠)** for online pharmacy resources. You can get an estimate of your out-of-pocket cost for a prescription, view your claims history and more.

What if I have questions?

Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the choices you have and which drug is right for you. As always, treatment decisions are between you and your doctor.

If you have questions about your prescription drug benefit, see your plan materials, visit BAM or call the number on your ID card.

Examples of Brand Products with Generic Equivalents or Alternatives[1]

Brand Name[2]	Generic Equivalent or Alternative
Acid Reflux Disease/Ulcer	
Aciphex, Dexilant, Nexium, Prevacid, Prilosec, Protonix, Zegerid	lansoprazole, omeprazole, omeprazole/sodium bicarbonate, pantoprazole
Depression	
Celexa, Effexor, Effexor XR, Lexapro, Paxil, Paxil CR, Pristiq, Prozac, Zoloft, Wellbutrin/SR/XL	citalopram, bupropion, bupropion extended release, escitalopram, fluoxetine, fluoxetine delayed release, paroxetine, paroxetine extended release, venlafaxine, venlafaxine extended release
High Cholesterol	
Altoprev, Crestor, Lescol, Lescol XL, Lipitor, Pravachol, Tricor, Vytorin, Zetia, Zocor	atorvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin
Niaspan	niacin extended release
High Blood Pressure	
Aceon, Altace, Atacand, Atacand HCT, Avalide, Avapro, Benicar, Benicar HCT, Cozaar, Diovan, Diovan HCT, Hyzaar, Mavik, Micardis, Micardis HCT, Teveeten, Univasc, Uniretic	benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, moexipril, perindopril, quinapril, ramipril, trandolapril, all generic HCT combination products
Catapres-TTS	clonidine
Coreg, Inderal LA, Innopran XL, Toprol XL	atenolol, metoprolol, propranolol, sotalol, timolol
Norvasc	amlodipine, diltiazem, felodipine, isradipine, nicardipine, nifedipine, nimodipine, verapamil
Insomnia	
Ambien, Ambien CR, Edluar, Lunesta, Rozerem, Silenor, Sonata, Zolpimist	zaleplon, zolpidem

1. This list is for example only and is not all-inclusive. Drugs on this list may change from time to time. Not all listed drugs may be covered under all benefit plan designs.
2. Third-party brand names are the property of their respective owners.