**6 Ways to Maximize Your Pharmacy Benefit**

1. Ask your doctor to prescribe generic and formulary brand drugs when clinically appropriate.
2. Ask your doctor to write your prescription using the generic name of the medication.
3. Use a contracting pharmacy and present your member ID card along with your prescription.
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6. Take your medications as directed.

For more information about generic drugs, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or visit [www.bcbsil.com](http://www.bcbsil.com). If you have questions about your prescription drug benefit, call the Pharmacy Program number on the back of your ID card.

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**Brand Drugs and Their Generic Equivalents and Alternatives**

Generic equivalents or alternatives are available for many commonly prescribed brand drugs, including those listed in the chart below. If you are taking one of the following brand drugs, consider talking to your doctor about a corresponding generic equivalent or alternative, which could save you money.

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<tr>
<th>Brand Name*</th>
<th>Generic Equivalent or Alternative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>High Cholesterol</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altovastatin, Colestid, Crestor, Lescyl, Lescol XL, Lipitor, Pravachol, Tricor, Vytorin, Zetia, Zocor</td>
<td>lovastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advicor</td>
<td>lovastatin, niacin extended release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niaspan</td>
<td>niacin extended release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hypertension</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aceon, Altace, Atacand, Atacand HCT, Avalide, Avapro, Benicar, Benicar HCT, Coozan, Diovan, Diovan HCT, Hyzaar, Mavik, Micardis, Micardis HCT, Teveten, Univascl</td>
<td>benazepril, captopril, enalapril, enalaprilat, fosinopril, lisinopril, moexipril, perindopril, quinapril, ramipril, trandolapril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catapress-TTS</td>
<td>clonidine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreg, Indoril LA, Innopran XL, Toprol XL</td>
<td>atenolol, metoprolol propranolol, sotalol, timolol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotrel</td>
<td>amlodipine, benazepril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norvasc</td>
<td>amlodipine, bepridil, diltiazem, felodipine, flunarizine, isradipine, nisoldipine, nifedipine, nimodipine, verapamil</td>
</tr>
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* Third party brand names are the property of their respective owners.
Decisions about generic medications are best made by talking with your doctor. This brochure can help guide your discussion.

Be informed.
Generic Drugs: Safe. Effective. FDA-Approved.
A generic drug is a version of a brand drug. Generic drugs are reviewed and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), just as brand drugs are. According to the FDA, compared to its brand counterpart, a generic drug:
• is chemically the same
• works the same in the body
• is as safe and effective
• meets the same standards set by the FDA.
The major difference is that the generic drug often costs much less.

Formulary: More than just a list of drugs – it’s a tool to help you and your doctor.
Some benefit plans include a formulary. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois prescription drug formulary is a list of preferred drugs chosen by a committee, comprised of individuals from throughout the country who hold a medical or pharmacy degree, that reviews all FDA-approved drugs based on many standards such as safety, effectiveness and cost. The formulary includes all generic drugs and a select group of brand drugs, and is regularly reviewed and revised. For the most up-to-date formulary listing, visit www.bcbsil.com.

Benefit Plans: Whether a drug is brand or generic can make a difference in your cost. Benefit plans may feature multiple levels of member copayment/coinsurance amounts for prescription drugs. This means you may pay less when purchasing generic medications. Your copayment/coinsurance amount depends on your prescription drug benefit plan and whether the drug is generic or brand. As an example, based on a three-tier formulary prescription drug benefit design, you would pay:
- Tier 1: Generic Drugs – lowest copayment/coinsurance amount
- Tier 2: Formulary Brand Drugs – middle copayment/coinsurance amount
- Tier 3: Non-formulary Brand Drugs – highest copayment/coinsurance amount

Talk to Your Doctor.
Discuss your options to make the best decisions.
Only you and your doctor together can determine the most appropriate medication for you, but the information in this brochure can help you better understand your benefit plan options. Remember, treatment decisions are always between you and your doctor.

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Start Saving Now
Using generic drugs, when clinically appropriate, can help reduce your out-of-pocket expense. There may be a generic or more cost-effective brand drug that is right for you. The lists on the following panel, which include brand drugs and their generic equivalents and alternatives, can help you and your doctor select an appropriate medication.

Generic Equivalents and Generic Alternatives
There are two types of generics:
• A generic equivalent is made with the same active ingredients at the same dosage as the brand medication. You can expect the same results as with the brand counterpart.
• A generic alternative works like a brand drug and may be used to treat the same condition. But the chemicals in a generic alternative differ from the brand drug or its generic equivalent. So, overall results can vary.

Usually your pharmacist can automatically substitute a generic equivalent for its brand counterpart. But only your doctor can determine whether a generic alternative is right for you and must prescribe the medication.
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www.bcbsil.com

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

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A Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association
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