

# Restricted Generics

Save money by using generic drugs

## CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

### How your prescription benefits work

Your prescription benefits are structured to take advantage of the savings associated with generic drugs through a program called Restricted Generics. With Restricted Generics, you will save the most by choosing generic drugs (when available) versus brand-name drugs. Unless your doctor writes “Dispense as Written” or DAW on your brand-name drug prescription, you will pay both the non-preferred brand copay plus the cost difference between the generic and brand-name drug.

Consumers who are able to replace brand-name drugs with generic alternatives may save up to 75 percent on

their daily drug costs. Not only are generic drugs proven to be just as safe and effective as brand-name drugs, they are:

- An identical copy of their counterpart brand-name drugs in dosage, safety, strength, how they are taken, quality, performance and intended use.
- Manufactured in facilities required to meet the same FDA standards of good manufacturing practices as brand name products.
- Supported by the FDA and American Medical Association (AMA).
- Routinely used by most hospitals.

#### Example scenario

Jim’s employer has chosen the Restricted Generics program. At his last visit to the doctor, he was prescribed Ambien, a brand-name sedative that has a generic alternative. As long as his prescribing doctor writes “Dispense as Written” or DAW on the prescription, Jim will only be responsible for the non-preferred brand copay of \$45. If Jim’s doctor did not write DAW on his prescription, he could choose to get the brand-name drug Ambien and pay \$464 or he could save by choosing the generic alternative and pay only \$10.

Brand-Name Drug Ambien 10mg with DAW		Brand-Name Drug Ambien 10mg without DAW		Generic Alternative zolpidem 10mg	
Non-preferred brand copay	\$35	Non-preferred brand copay	\$35	Generic copay	\$5
		Difference between generic and brand	\$419		n/a
<b>Jim owes</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>Jim owes</b>	<b>\$454</b>	<b>Jim owes</b>	<b>\$5</b>

*\*The costs in the chart are for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect your specific benefits or costs.*

To learn more about your prescription drug benefits, log in to *My Account* at [www.carefirst.com/myaccount](http://www.carefirst.com/myaccount) and select *Drug & Pharmacy Resources* under *Quick Links* or call CareFirst Pharmacy Services at 800-241-3371.



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