

Opportunities for Generic Savings in 2010 and 2011

During 2010 and 2011, 28 brand-name drugs, used by more than 467,000 people in upstate New York, are scheduled to become available in their generic form. With nearly \$690 million spent annually on these drugs in 39 upstate counties, the introduction of these generics promises to provide substantial savings.

A generic drug contains the same active ingredients in the same dosage form as a brand-name drug. All generic drugs are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective. Not all brand-name drugs have exact generic equivalents but there may be effective generic alternatives within the same therapeutic class.

The tables below reflect a summary of the generics that are scheduled to become available over the next two years.

2010

Brand Drug	Generic Name	Generic Availability	Used For	Estimated Users*	Estimated Annual Spend*
Mirapex	pramipexole	January 2010	Parkinson's Disease	5,100	\$ 9,060,000
Aldara	imiquimod	February 2010	skin lesions	5,300	\$ 9,750,000
Flomax	tamsulosin	March 2010	enlarged prostate	39,200	\$ 52,740,000
Astelin	azelastine	March 2010	allergies	14,600	\$ 7,560,000
Cozaar	losartan	April 2010	high blood pressure	12,500	\$ 12,030,000
Hyzaar	hydrochlorothiazide & losartan	April 2010	high blood pressure	6,800	\$ 7,500,000
Epivir	lamivudine	May 2010	HIV / AIDS	200	\$ 660,000
Arimidex	anastrozole	June 2010	breast cancer	5,800	\$ 24,090,000
Effexor XR	venlafaxine XR	July 2010	depression	29,400	\$ 63,810,000
Amerge	naratriptan	July 2010	migraine	1,100	\$ 2,910,000
Aricept	donepezil	November 2010	Alzheimer's Disease	18,800	\$ 41,670,000
Androderm	testosterone transdermal system	December 2010	male hormone replacement	900	\$ 1,830,000
Patanol	olopatadine	December 2010	eye allergies	6,600	\$ 3,030,000
Differin	adapalene	December 2010	acne	14,800	\$ 11,370,000
Total				161,100	\$ 248,010,000

* Estimates based on extrapolation of third quarter 2009 drug utilization data from FLRx, Excelsus BlueCross BlueShield's pharmacy management division. FLRx provides pharmacy benefit management services for more than 1.2 million people across 39 upstate New York counties.

The release dates reflect current estimates of the earliest dates that one or more patents covering the indicated brand drug will expire, and therefore the earliest date that generic versions of the drug may become available in 2010. In some cases, other patents may exist or litigation could arise that could extend the exclusivity period of the brand drug beyond the date indicated.

2011

Brand Drug	Generic Name	Generic Availability	Used For	Estimated Users*	Estimated Annual Spend*
Femcon FE	norethindrone & ethinyl estradiol	January 2011	contraception	2,300	\$ 1,590,000
Rythmol SR	propafenone	January 2011	heart rhythm	1,000	\$ 4,860,000
Tricor	fenofibrate	January 2011	high cholesterol	35,400	\$ 88,140,000
Xalatan	latanoprost	March 2011	glaucoma	20,700	\$ 14,940,000
Aromasin	exemestane	April 2011	breast cancer	1,300	\$ 4,710,000
Entocort EC	budesonide	May 2011	Crohn's Disease	1,700	\$ 8,580,000
Levaquin	levofloxacin	June 2011	infection	27,900	\$ 15,300,000
Yaz	drospirenone & ethinyl estradiol	July 2011	contraception	37,300	\$ 29,010,000
Actos	pioglitazone	July 2011	diabetes	30,900	\$ 73,650,000
Oracea	doxycycline	August 2011	rosacea	800	\$ 1,980,000
Gabitril	tiagabine	September 2011	seizure	200	\$ 540,000
Zyprexa	olanzapine	October 2011	mental health: psychosis	3,800	\$ 18,300,000
Caduet	amlodipine & atorvastatin	November 2011	high blood pressure & high cholesterol	2,900	\$ 5,100,000
Lipitor	atorvastatin	November 2011	high cholesterol	140,200	\$ 174,060,000
Total				306,000	\$ 440,760,000

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Additional Information about Prescription Drug Savings

Excellus BCBS has a number of additional educational materials and resources available on its Web site, including a consumer reference guide that lists available generic drug options for a variety of common conditions. The reference guide is available at www.go.excellusbcbs.com/generics under "Tools and Resources."