

# What are the advantages?

Generic drugs can help lower your prescription drug expenses and keep your drug insurance premiums stable.

The choices you make today have a direct impact on cost and contribute to keeping your prescription drug insurance plan viable and healthy!

## Simple steps you can take

1

When you need to purchase prescription drugs, ask your doctor or your pharmacist if there is a generic version adapted to your needs.

2

If you are using a brand of drug that has no generic equivalent, keep track of when a generic version might become available.

**Act now!**

Opt for  
generic brands  
and save!

**SSQ**  
insurance



 **Group  
insurance**

**Opt for  
generic brands  
and save!**



## Did you know?

The price of drugs has been going up for many years now. In group insurance, this increase has significant impacts on health insurance plans such as increases in drug insurance premiums, cuts in your health insurance plan, and reductions in the drug reimbursement rate. There are several measures in place, however, to compensate for this situation.

### Discover how you can put a brake on the increasing costs of your group health insurance plan!

By choosing a generic drug, you'll be able to see a real difference in the cost of your group health insurance plan. **Why?** Because generic drugs can cost up to 75% less than their brand drug equivalents.

## What is a generic drug?

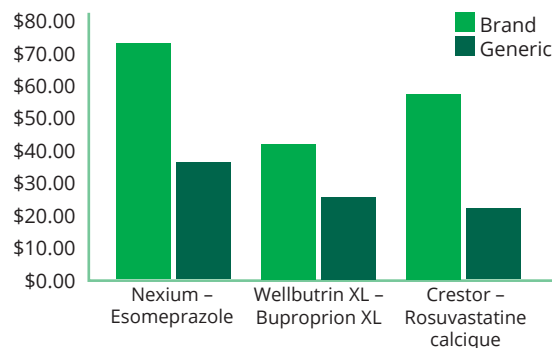
Generic drugs are low cost copies of brand-name drugs whose patents have expired.

A brand drug is protected by a patent for a certain number of years, which means that during this period, copies of the drug are not allowed.

When the patent on the brand drug expires, a generic version can be developed and marketed at a lower cost. All generic drugs available on the market have been approved by Health Canada. These products must meet strict legal requirements established by the Food and Drug Act. Therefore, a generic drug must meet the same criteria as a brand-name drug.



## Cost per average prescription



Examples of the most frequently claimed drugs at SSQ Insurance in 2019.

## Why opt for generic drugs?




The generic version of a drug meets the same exact standards of quality and purity as established by Health Canada. They have identical medicinal ingredients and there is no difference in efficacy and safety.


## The difference is the cost

### Example of possible savings by opting for the generic version

Drugs	Average monthly cost*	Co-insurance at 80%	Monthly cost for the plan	Monthly cost for the insured
Brand version CRESTOR (10 mg)	\$55.00	X 80%	= \$44.00	= \$11.00
Generic version (10 mg)	\$21.62	X 80%	= \$17.30	= \$4.32

\* Average monthly cost claimed at SSQ Insurance in 2019.

  
**\$320.40**  
in savings per year  
for the plan

  
**\$80.16**  
in savings per year,  
per insured