GIANNOTTO'S
SPECIALTY PHARMACY

Giannotto's Specialty Pharmacy will provide information about drug substitutions of prescriptions:

The information provided to the member on generic substitution and /or therapeutic substitution is through our customer handbook at the time of their enrollment through PMP.

Generic use: In the state of NJ, therapeutic substitution of the AB rated generic version of a brand name medication is mandatory, unless the prescribing physician specifies that they would like the brand name medication to be dispensed by writing on the prescription, "No Substitution". AB rated generic medications are considered to be therapeutically equivalent to their branded versions. The drug substitution includes new prescriptions and refills for therapeutic and other changes. A prior authorization request may be required by the patient's insurance company for all prescriptions where the prescriber has indicated that he or she would like the brand name version of a generically available medication dispensed by writing, "No substitution" on the prescription. Giannotto's specialty pharmacy will let the patient's physician know that the prescribed medication requires prior authorization.

In addition, we will also provide them with the 1-800# of the insurance company where they can call, explain them the reason for their prescription, and get it approved for the patient.

DOCTOR DAW AND GENERIC SUBSTITUTION OPPORTUNITY:

In the state of NEW JERSEY, therapeutic substitution of the AB rated generic version of a brand name medication is mandatory, unless the prescribing physician specifies that they would like the brand name medication to be dispensed by writing on the prescription, "No Substitution". AB rated generic medications are considered to be therapeutically equivalent to their branded versions. A prior authorization request shall be required for all prescriptions where the prescriber has indicated that he or she would like the brand name version of a generically available medication dispensed by writing, "No substitution" on the prescription.

THERAPEUTIC SUBSTITUTION:

Requests shall be approved when the following criteria are met: Documentation that the patient has an allergy to one of the excipients found in the generic version of the medication that is not found in the brand name medication.

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FORMULARY SUBSTITUTION:

Giannotto's pharmacy will contact the prescriber and change the similar medication of the same class after getting approved by prescriber. Giannotto's Pharmacy educate and encourage formulary compliance and generic substitution with eligible Person and prescribers except where it is restricted by the law as discussed above. Giannotto's pharmacy will document its efforts to encourage the formulary compliance and generic substitution with the help of patient, doctors and insurance companies.

Here are some information on generics that our customer service staff can answer if any consumer calls and asks Why generics are safe, effective and a better value. Also some information is on our website.

Save money with generics.

Each time you fill a prescription, you could save money by asking for a generic medicine. That could add up to big savings in just a short time.

Research shows that plan participants can save an average of 30% to 80% when they fill their prescriptions with a generic drug instead of a brand name drug. As your prescription benefit administrator, Giannotto's Specialty Pharmacy is committed to making the most cost-effective prescription options available to you. That's why you can count on Giannotto's Specialty Pharmacy to support you in using safe and effective, FDA approved generics whenever appropriate.

Are generics safe? And effective?

Yes, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes sure of it.

The FDA puts each generic medicine through a rigorous quality control review process to ensure that generics are as safe and effective as the original brand name medicine. The manufacturing facilities must meet specific standards too. The FDA inspects more than 3,500 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities each year to monitor how the medicines are made, processed, tested, packaged, and labeled.

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The truth about generics.

Some people wonder about the safety of generics and how well they work. Let's debunk a few myths and state the truth about several issues in question:

Generics work just as quickly in the body as brand name drugs.

A generic drug manufacturer must prove to the FDA that its drug delivers the same amount of active ingredients in the same time frame as its brand name equivalent.

Generics are just as powerful as brand name drugs.

The FDA requires that a generic have the same quality and strength as its brand name counterpart.

Generics are just as safe as brand name drugs.

The FDA requires that ALL drugs be safe and effective. Since generics contain the same active ingredients as the brand, they are just as safe and effective as their brand name equivalents.

Generics are made in FDA-inspected facilities.

The FDA conducts about 3,500 inspections a year on all pharmaceutical facilities. Generics manufacturers' production facilities are subject to the same FDA standards as brand name firms' facilities.

Generic drugs have NO ADDITIONAL side effects compared to brand name drugs.

The FDA monitors reports of adverse drug reactions and has found no difference in side effects between generic and brand name drugs.

If you still have questions about drug safety or effectiveness, dial 1-888-463-6332 for the FDA toll-free hotline. To learn more about generic drugs online, you can also visit

Are there differences between generic and brand name medicines?

Yes, the name and how they look are different, NOT how they work.

When the patent of a brand name drug expires, pharmaceutical companies can apply to the FDA for approval to produce and sell the same drug under its chemical, or generic name.

For example, only one company has the rights to sell the brand drug Prozac®, but many companies can sell the same chemical, fluoxetine, as a generic as long as they get FDA approval.

In the United States, trademark laws do not allow a generic drug to look exactly like the brand name drug. Therefore, you can expect a generic drug to be a different color or a different shape than its brand name counterpart. However, the way it looks has no effect on how the drug works.

What does FDA approved mean?

Generic medicines are copies of brand name drugs, containing the identical active chemical ingredient in the same strengths. Before a generic medicine can be made available to the public, it must go through a rigorous quality control review process to receive approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA reviews each generic to make sure it's equivalent to the brand name product in:

- Effectiveness
- Safety
- Active ingredients
- Performance (how it works in the body)
- Strength (10 mg, 20 mg)
- Dosage form (pill, liquid, cream, etc.)

The FDA inspects more than 3,500 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities each year to monitor how all drugs—generics and brands—are made, processed, tested, packaged, and labeled. Their standards are the same whether the manufacturer makes brands or generics, and some manufacturers make both.

Click here to see what the FDA has to say about generics.

Why does the generic look different from the brand?

By law, generic medicines must look different than their brand name equivalents; the generic version may be a blue pill while the brand is a white pill. But, you can count on generic medicines to be just as safe and just as effective as their brand name equivalents—safety and effectiveness are very important parts of the FDA approval process. The look of the drug has nothing to do with how it works.

Click here for a detailed look at how the Food and Drug Administration ensures that generic drugs are equivalent to their brand name counterparts.

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If generics are just as good, why do they cost less?

Generics cost less because their manufacturers do not have to spend the hundreds of millions of dollars it takes to discover the new, original drug.

According to the FDA, developing a new drug and getting it approved for sale can take 10 years and cost $800 million. To encourage companies to make these investments, new brand name drugs are given patent protection for up to 20 years. By the time a drug gets FDA approval and reaches the marketplace, the company usually has about 10 years left on the patent. While a medicine is under patent, no other company can sell the same drug. During this period, the brand manufacturer has an opportunity to recover the original investment in the drug.

When the patent expires, other manufacturers can apply for permission to sell the same drug as a generic. The generic drug must be thoroughly tested and approved by the FDA before it can be sold. Because the generic manufacturer doesn't have the same investment in the research and development of the original drug, the generic medicine can usually be sold at a much lower price. What's more, when the patent expires, other drug companies can also sell generic versions of the same medicine if FDA approved. Increased competition usually lowers prices. The savings are passed on to you.

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