

# GENERIC DRUGS SAVE ILLINOISANS BILLIONS

In 2020, Illinois saved **\$12.7 billion** with generic and biosimilar medicines.

Patients win when FDA-approved generics and biosimilars deliver savings on their medicines. Market-based competition drives prices down, but meaningful action is needed to lower brand prescription drug costs while ensuring sustainable competition in the pharmaceutical sector.

## SEE HOW THE SAVINGS ADD UP IN ILLINOIS

Generics and biosimilars save money and increase access for public and private payers alike.



MEDICARE  
**\$4 BILLION**  
IN SAVINGS

MEDICAID  
**\$2.1 BILLION**  
IN SAVINGS



MEDICARE SAVINGS  
PER ENROLLEE  
**\$2,363**

MEDICAID SAVINGS  
PER ENROLLEE  
**\$1,200**

### A Public Health Success Story: Tens of Millions of Americans Entrust Their Health to Generics and Biosimilars



**76 million** U.S. patients took at least one prescription medicine in 2020. **Nine out of 10** prescriptions are generic, and they are all approved by the FDA.



The U.S. health care system has saved nearly **\$2.4 trillion** in the last 10 years due to the availability of affordable generics and biosimilars.



New generics and biosimilars are increasingly contributing savings – from \$6 billion in 2012 to 20 times that: **\$124 billion** in 2020.



AARP reports that prices for the 390 generics most used by seniors recently **fell by 9.3%** despite a general inflation rate of 2.1%. Prices continue to fall.



Brand-name biologics and specialty medicines account for **53% of total spending** on prescription drugs, yet are used by only **2% of patients**.

## THE FACTS

U.S. GENERIC AND BIOSIMILAR SAVINGS

**\$338 BILLION**

Generics represent **90%** of prescriptions filled, yet account for only **18%** of prescription drug spending



Average generic copay **\$6.61**



Average brand drug copay **\$55.82**

## SHARE OF HEALTH CARE SPENDING

HOSPITAL/PROVIDER COSTS 74%

BRAND/SPECIALTY DRUGS 9%

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES 7%

TAXES/FEEES 3%

GENERICS 1.97%

Sources: IQVIA, National Sales Perspectives, Dec 2020 | IQVIA, The Use of Medicines in the U.S. May 2021, | AARP, Trends in Retail Prices of Generic Prescription Drugs Widely Used by Older Americans: 2017 Year-End Update, April 2019 | California Department of Managed Healthcare Prescription Drug Cost Transparency Report Measurement, 2020.

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