North Carolina State Health Plan

July 2021

Brand-Name Medications Requiring Use of a Generic First

You can save money by using safe, effective generic medications when possible. According to your prescription benefit plan, you will have to try a generic medication first before certain brand-name medications will be covered. The chart below tells you which kinds of drugs require you to use a generic first. This chart only provides a sample list of generic drug options and may not include all drugs available.

Drug Class Condition Treated*	Step 1: You will have to try one of these generic medications first:	Step 2: Before you can try one of these non-preferred brandname drugs:	These preferred select brand-name drugs do not require use of a generic first:
Bisphosphonates/ Combinations Osteoporosis	alendronate ibandronate risedronate	Binsoto Fosamax Plus D	Preferred brand not available in class
COX-2 Inhibitors/Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory (NSAIDs)/ Combinations Pain and Inflammation	celecoxib diclofenac sodium-misoprostol meloxicam naproxen tabs (Additional generic NSAIDs available)	Vivlodex Zipsor	Preferred brand not available in class
Fibrates High Triglycerides	fenofibrate (except fenofibrate tablet 120 mg) fenofibric acid	Antara	Preferred brand not available in class
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) Depression	citalopram escitalopram tab fluoxetine (except fluoxetine 60 mg tablet) paroxetine HCI/paroxetine HCI ext-rel sertraline	Pexeva Viibryd	Trintellix
Sleeping Agents Insomnia/Sleep Problems	doxepin tabs eszopiclone ramelteon zolpidem/zolpidem ext-rel zolpidem sublingual	Edluar	Belsomra



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*This list indicates the common uses for which the drug is prescribed. Some medicines are prescribed for more than one condition. Brand-name drugs not listed here may be covered by your plan without the use of a generic first. Information provided here is not a substitute for medical advice or treatment.

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