



December 28, 2006

A change in your prescription plan

Carespring Healthcare Management and Express Scripts — the company selected to manage your prescription plan — are working together to make prescription drug coverage more affordable. As a result, **beginning January 1, 2007**, your plan will use a “generics preferred” program. This means that the next time you need a refill for a brand-name drug, your pharmacist will fill with a generic drug if available. **This option will save you money.**

What are generic drugs?

Generic drugs are copies of brand-name drugs whose patents have run out. That is, a generic drug has the same chemical makeup as the original brand-name drug. Generics account for more than 45% of all medications prescribed in the U.S. More people are choosing them because they're:

- **safe** – they have the same active ingredients and are used in the body the same way as their original brand-name drugs. They're also approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), just like brand-name drugs.
- **effective** – they're just as strong and deliver the same medical benefits as the brand-name drugs.
- **less expensive** – they aren't advertised like brand names, and they cost less to produce, so ***the savings are passed along to you*** in the form of a lower copayment.

You still have the option of having your prescription filled with the “brand” name drug but you are responsible for both the higher copayment and the difference in price between the generic and brand name drug.

Sincerely,

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