

Educators Health Plan – Mandatory Generics

Pursuant to the Chapter 44 requirements, the NJ Educators Health Plan includes the addition of the Mandatory Generics.

Mandatory Generics is the practice of requiring members to fill a generic medication in place of a brand when available. Generic alternatives have the same chemical makeup and same effect in the body as their original brand-name counterparts. Though generics may have a different name, color, and/or shape, generics have undergone rigorous clinical testing and been approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as safe and effective.

Members must fill generic medications when available or incur a penalty. The penalty cost to fill a brand medication when a generic equivalent is available is the difference in cost between the generic drug and brand drug, plus the brand copay.

Express Scripts, the Prescription Benefit Manager for the SHIF, has provided the below list of the most commonly prescribed branded drug with generic equivalents available. This list is comprised of actual medications filled by Schools Health Insurance Fund members in the last 12 months.

Brand Drug	Brand Drug cost per 30 days (average)	Generic Drug	Generic Drug Cost per 30 days (average)	<i>Estimated</i> Patient Pay for Brand	<i>Estimated</i> Final Cost to Patient
Adderall 20mg	\$328	Dextroamphetamine-Amphetamine Salts 20mg	\$32	\$328 - \$32 + Brand Copay (\$20)	\$316
Zoloft 50mg	\$420	Sertraline 50mg	\$85	\$420 - \$85 + Brand Copay (\$20)	\$355
Viagra 100mg	8 tablets - \$720	Sildenafil 100mg	\$528	\$720 - \$528 + Brand Copay (\$20)	\$212
Toprol XL 50mg	\$47	Metoprolol Succinate ER 50mg	\$38	\$47 - \$38 + Brand Copay (\$20)	\$29
Aciphex 20mg	\$629	Rabeprazole 20mg	\$348	\$629 - \$348 + Brand Copay (\$20)	\$301
Xanax 1mg	\$261	Alprazolam 1mg	\$34	\$261 - \$34 + Brand Copay (\$20)	\$247

**This is not a complete list and requirements are subject to change at any time. Members concerned about disruption should discuss covered alternatives with their providers prior to enrollment. Prescription drug costs are illustrative only and subject to change.*

If there is a clinical need for a patient to fill the branded version of the medication, the prescribing provider, may contact Express Scripts at, 1-800-753-2851 to request a clinical authorization review. If the clinical review approves, the brand penalty will not apply.

It is important to note additional drugs are impacted and cost estimates will change when additional generic alternatives of brand name drugs become available during the year.