

Multiple Sclerosis Patients Save with Generic Drugs

Total: \$28 million

Generics saved patients with multiple sclerosis \$28 million in 2017, and savings for the past 10 years total \$96 million. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society now estimates that nearly one million people in the United States have the condition, more than double previous estimates. Generic drugs combat the disease, which damages the sheaths of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord.

The Promise of Biosimilars

Just as generics offer savings over brand-name drugs, biosimilars—safe, effective alternative versions of biologic medicines—promise to improve the quality of life for America’s patients while at the same time saving the health system billions of dollars.

Many multiple sclerosis patients also take generic medications for other conditions:

23% have depression, for which they saved **\$432 thousand**



21% have anxiety, for which they saved **\$607 thousand**

18% have hypertension, for which they saved **\$233 thousand**

Data compiled by IQVIA on behalf of AAM

Generic drug savings in the U.S.



Generics are **90%** of prescriptions dispensed but only **23%** of total drug costs

Medicare **\$82.7** Billion **\$1,952** per enrollee

Medicaid **\$40.6** Billion **\$568** per enrollee

\$265 Billion
U.S. Savings in 2017

\$1.79 Trillion
10-Year U.S. Savings

Disease-State and Comorbidity Selection Methodology

AAM contracted with health policy consulting firm Avalere to conduct the mapping of products to specific conditions. Avalere conducted the clinical review by assigning each generic product to a list of medical conditions. Using high-quality and reliable drug information databases (for example, Lexicomp Online and Micromedex 2.0) and expertise from a clinical pharmacist, Avalere mapped the products to medical conditions using their approved therapeutic indications. The generic products were further stratified by assigning comorbidities using published epidemiological data to determine the three most common associated medical conditions.

This approach allowed for an accounting of the patient savings for each medical condition. As a general rule, direct savings for any of the listed medical conditions includes all products with an indication for that medical condition. As such, the savings may be driven by any product with an indication for that specified condition and not necessarily the most common treatment. Savings do not account for the frequency in which providers prescribe each product for an approved or unapproved medical condition.