

# CALIFORNIA SAVED \$23.4 BILLION WITH GENERICS



**Generic prescription drugs saved California \$23.4 billion in 2017** and \$265 billion for the U.S. health care system overall. The availability of safe, effective and affordable generics means savings for the state's residents and taxpayers.

In 2017, 9 out of every 10 prescriptions in the U.S. were dispensed using generic drugs, but generics represent only 23 percent of prescription spending. When both brand and generic versions of the prescribed medication were available, the generic was chosen 97 percent of the time.

## Breaking Down California's Savings

Medicaid:  
**\$4.7 Billion**

Commercial Insured:  
**\$10.1 Billion**

Medicare:  
**\$7.6 Billion**

Cash (Non-Insured):  
**\$1.1 Billion**

### Abandonment in California

Prescription medication cannot help the patient who doesn't take it. "Abandonment" occurs when the patient brings or calls in his or her prescription to the pharmacy but does not collect the medicine. In California, patients abandon their brand-name prescriptions 19.21% of the time, compared to only 8.79% for generics.



**Generic drug  
savings in  
the U.S.**

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

**\$265**  
Billion  
**U.S. Savings  
in 2017**

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