Maine Secures Big Savings Through Generic Drugs

Total Savings: $1.2 Billion

In 2019, the use of safe, effective and affordable generic medicines saved the state's patients and taxpayers $417.2 million and $313 billion for the country. The COVID-19 global pandemic has highlighted the importance of affordable and accessible generics to help save lives and contain costs for America's patients.

These savings reach every patient in Maine. The average copay for a generic medicine is nearly $50 lower than the copay for a brand-name drug. In fact, 92% of generic prescriptions are filled for $20 or less. Through the pandemic and beyond, it's vital to make effective, affordable generic medicines more accessible to more people who need them.

"Abandonment" occurs when a patient does not collect the prescription called in or brought to the pharmacy. In Maine, reporting shows that in 2018 patients abandoned their brand-name prescriptions **22.2%** of the time, compared to only **8.7%** for generics.

Promise of Biosimilars

Only **2%** of prescriptions in the U.S. account for nearly **50%** of U.S. health care costs. These prescriptions are for biologics and other specialty medicines. Biosimilars, which meet the same standards of pharmaceutical quality, safety and efficacy that apply to all biological medicines, are a growing area of savings for America's patients. They saved the health care system $2.2 billion in 2019 and $4.5 billion over the past 10 years. Biosimilars are projected to save America $80 billion or more over the next decade, but only if patients can access them.

Source: IQVIA 2019

Your State Savings

Medicaid
$155.2 Million

Medicare
$426.8 Million

Cash (non-insured)
$39.1 Million

Commercial Insured
$565.5 Million

TOTAL
$1.2 Billion

Generic drug and biosimilars savings in the U.S.

Generics are 90% of Prescriptions Filled Yet Account for Only 20% of Prescription Drug Spending.

$313 Billion
Generics 2019 U.S. Savings

$2.2 Trillion
Generics 10-Year U.S. Savings

$4.5 Billion
Biosimilars 10-Year U.S. Savings