

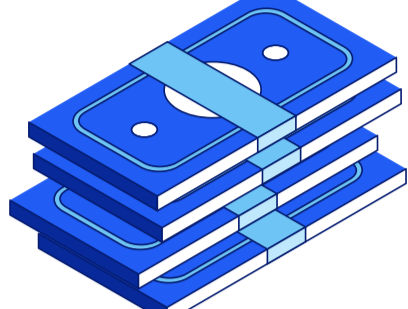
# Hatch-Waxman at 40

Historic legislation that brought down prescription drugs costs – but does it have a future?

## What is Hatch-Waxman?

Officially dubbed **The Drug Price Competition and Patent Restoration Act of 1984**, this bipartisan legislation was negotiated by Rep. Henry Waxman and Sen. Orrin Hatch.

- Established the legal and economic foundation for today's generic pharmaceutical industry
- Streamlined approval of generic medicines
- Served as the model for biosimilar legislation



Savings in 2022  
**\$408**  
Billion

Generics and biosimilars expanded access and reduced spending, saving patients, employers and taxpayers billions.

10-Year Savings  
**\$2.9**  
Trillion

The U.S. healthcare system has saved nearly \$3 trillion over the past decade due to the availability of low-cost generics and biosimilars.<sup>1</sup>

**90.3%**

Percentage of prescriptions that were generics

**17.5%**

Percentage of total spending from generic medicines

The U.S. leads the world in pharmaceutical innovation and adoption of lower-cost generic drugs.<sup>1</sup>

## Today, those savings are at risk.

### Unchecked Price Deflation Causes Drug Shortages

**\$6.4 billion lower**  
Change in value of generic sales since 2017

According to the IQVIA Institute:

- Shortages are overwhelmingly found in generic drugs, particularly sterile injectables;
- Shortages are increasingly in multi-source generic markets; and
- Shortages are centered in low-cost products below \$1 and \$5.

Too-low pricing can cause market exits and create conditions ripe for a shortage.

### PBMs Delay Adoption of New Generics

**1,000+ days**

How long it takes before first generics are covered on more than half of Medicare Part D formularies

These delays and lack of coverage restrict patient access to lower-cost generics.

## Other worrying factors for generics and biosimilars:

### PBMs Block Biosimilar Adoption

**52%** written prescriptions vs **31%** filled prescriptions

Lower prices and abusive contract terms lead to increased fragility in manufacturing of low-cost medicines.

### Market Consolidation

Generic purchasing is dominated by consolidated group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and wholesale purchasing consortium



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## What's slowing down generics and biosimilars?

### Delayed Entry / Patent Thicket

Ongoing patent litigation and large patent estates on brand drugs frequently delay generic and biosimilar medicines from coming to market. Although, the original compound patent on Humira® expired in 2016, AbbVie obtained over 160 patents on the product which do not expire until 2037.

## What can be done to give patients more access to generics and biosimilars?

### Medicaid Generic Drug Inflation Program

Congress should amend the Medicaid inflation penalty to limit such rebates to single-source generics with average annual costs exceeding \$100 per patient.

### 340B

Policymakers should amend the 340B program to provide that generics be available at the Average Manufacturer Price (AMP), ensuring providers continue to have access to generics at a low price while increasing the payment rate for generic manufacturers.

### State Drug Pricing Initiatives

Stop laws that create costly new reporting burdens for generic manufacturers.

### Ensure Timely Access to Generic and Biosimilar Medicines

Congress should ensure that companies can enter into pro-competitive, pro-patient patent settlement agreements that expedite generic and biosimilar entry. Patent settlements have led to generic drugs being introduced, on average, 81 months prior to patent expiry.

### Address IRA Uncertainty

Congress should protect generic and biosimilar competition by expanding the time for generic and biosimilar entry, preventing brand gamesmanship that delays generic/biosimilar entry, permitting generics to receive a pause in the negotiation process and providing greater clarity for the price-setting process.

### Ensure Rapid Adoption

Policymakers should ensure rapid coverage of lower-cost generics and biosimilars and remove PBM incentives in Medicare and the commercial market for use of higher list price brand drugs with high rebates and fees.

## It's time to make generics and biosimilars a top priority.

Generic and biosimilar medicines are the backbone of accessible care for America's patients. Policymakers have a unique opportunity to preserve and enhance generic and biosimilar competition and sustainability, safeguarding and stabilizing not only future savings, but future care.