

# Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Patients Save with Safe, Effective Generic Drugs



**Total Saved: \$68 Million**

Generics saved patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) \$68 million in 2018, and savings for the past 10 years total \$294 million. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, impairs the function of nerves and muscles. According to the ALS Association, it affects approximately 16,000 Americans. FDA-approved generic drugs can slow the progress of the disease.

## 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.

Source: IQVIA 2019  
Visit [accessiblemeds.org](http://accessiblemeds.org) for more information

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**Many ALS patients also take generic medications for other conditions:**

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**32% have cardiovascular disease, for which they saved** **\$2.7M**

**23% have depression, for which they saved** **\$1.5M**

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## Generic drug savings in the U.S.



**90%**

PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED IN THE U.S. ARE DISPENSED AS GENERICS

YET GENERICS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY

**22%**

OF ALL DRUG SPENDING

**\$90.3B**

MEDICARE SAVINGS  
\$2,254 PER ENROLLEE

**\$46.8B**

MEDICAID SAVINGS  
\$817 PER ENROLLEE

## AAM 2019 Patient Savings Report: Methodological Overview

This report estimates savings from generic drugs for the 10-year period from 2009-2018, as well as a single year estimate for 2018.

**Base Savings Estimates:** The base savings were calculated by IQVIA. We generated condition-level savings by assigning drugs to a list of common conditions, as well as a list of conditions provided by AAM and aggregating savings for all drug that are used to treat these conditions. Product condition assignments were conducted by a Doctor of Pharmacy. Importantly, many products treat multiple conditions. For purposes of this analysis, we ensured that the most common use of the product was the condition into which it was assigned.

**Comorbidity Estimates:** We used published epidemiological data to determine the three most common comorbidities for each of the index conditions. We calculated the base savings for the primary condition in the same manner as described above, and then assigned a weighted savings to each of the three selected comorbid conditions based on published prevalence data. Because the IQVIA data provided units rather than patients, we used units as a proxy for the number of patients treated and adjusted the units, and thus savings, in proportion to the published prevalence of each comorbid condition. Importantly, this methodology, due to the differences in units utilized by patients for specific conditions, could occasionally lead to estimates of comorbidity savings that exceed the total savings for that stand-alone condition. In these cases, the savings were either capped, when the total numbers were relatively low relative to the main condition or, more commonly, the incidence rate for the comorbidity was applied again, to ensure a lower savings estimate. While this is a methodological choice and likely underestimates the savings from the comorbidity, it effectively assumes that the commorbidity requires more units per patient treated than the main condition.

