

Brand-name U.S. drugs expected to go generic!

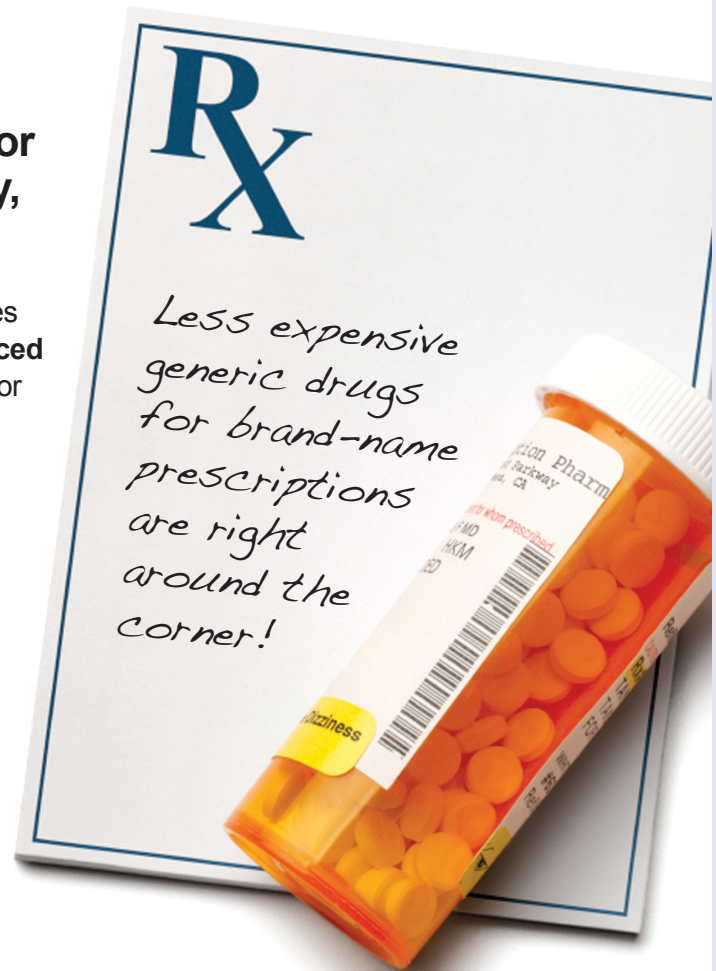
Less costs for employers & employees!

Lipitor, Plavix and Actos will lose patent protection in the coming years, opening the door to generics of the same quality, but for less cost. For example, out-of-pocket costs of the generic form of the widely used cholesterol drug Lipitor, (which loses its patent protection in November), will be **reduced to as little as \$4 for a month's supply.** Even for a person with health insurance, brand-name Lipitor can cost \$25 to \$40 — or more — each month!

Generics are safe & effective.

Less costly generics have the same active ingredients as their brand-name counterparts. In fact, the Food and Drug Administration requires that generics be as safe and effective as the patented versions.

Dr. Caleb Alexander, an internist at the University of Chicago Medical Center and a pharmacoepidemiologist who studies the quality of prescription drugs as well as pharmaceutical cost issues, is in favor of generic drugs. **"The medical profession has struggled to dispel the perception that generics are somehow inferior, but it is simply bogus,"** he said, **"Generics are the same."**



eBenefits will be keeping you updated with more information on this issue — stay tuned.

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