



LiUNA! LOCAL 183

HELPFUL INFORMATION

HELP KEEP YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AFFORDABLE!

Your benefits plan includes prescription drug coverage – a significant part of your overall benefits package, especially when you consider that each year, approximately 1 in 3 claimants have drug expenses over \$1,000 and 1 in 25 claim more than \$5,000.

Here are some tips on how you can make purchasing decisions to help keep your drug coverage affordable.

TRY THE GENERIC VERSION

Generics are less expensive alternates to brand name drugs. All generic drugs sold in Canada share the same medicinal ingredients as their brand name counterparts and are regulated by Health Canada as effective equivalents.

Many drugs are available in both generic and brand name forms. Generic forms are typically less expensive but are just as effective as brand name forms. Both drugs have the same active chemical ingredient, same dosage strength and same dosage form.

By asking your doctor to prescribe the generic equivalent of a brand name drug, you can do your part to help keep your drug plan affordable for the long term.

If your doctor prescribes a brand name drug, you can ask your pharmacist for the most cost-effective generic version of the drug.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about your Prescription Drug Benefit Card or your Benefit Plan, contact Member Services Department at (416)-240-7487 or 1-(888)-790-3534.

CONSULT WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN

It's a good idea to ask your physician about all your treatment options. For example, commonly prescribed treatments for high cholesterol include both brand name and generic products. The annual cost per claimant for one brand of medication is approximately \$720 while a generic in the same therapeutic class is only \$360 per year. Treatment options may also vary depending on the stage of a person's medical condition.

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS!

We encourage you to be an active participant in your healthcare. Not only will you benefit, but by doing so you can help keep your drug plan affordable for the long term.