



Great-West Life DRUGSOLUTIONS

Innovative **Prescription Drug Management** from Great-West Life

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 from Great-West Life on how you can make purchasing decisions to help keep your drug coverage affordable.

SHOP AROUND

On average, plan members claim over \$1,200 annually to their prescription drug plan, a figure that has been increasing by 10 to 15 per cent every year. Prices can vary by 10 to 20 per cent or more for the exact same medication from pharmacy to pharmacy so it can be worthwhile to shop around.

TRY THE GENERIC VERSION

Generics are less expensive alternatives 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 Canada¹ as effective equivalents.

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!

As a Great-West plan member, 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.

¹For more information on how Health Canada approves and monitors generic drugs in Canada, please refer to *The Safety and Effectiveness of Generic Drugs* page on the Health Canada website: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/med/med-gen-eng.php>

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