



DRUGS LOSING PATENT PROTECTION IN 2010

BRAND NAME DRUG	MANUFACTURER
1. Cozaar/Hyzaar	Merck
2. Lipitor	Pfizer
3. Flomax	Boehringer Ingelheim
4. Arimidex	AstraZeneca
5. Climara	Bayer HealthCare
6. Aricept	Eisai
7. Invirase	Roche
8. Hycamtin	GlaxoSmithKline
9. Protonix	Pfizer
10. Levaquin	Ortho-McNeil

COMMENTS: Some contracts/benefits require six months before being considered generic and some do not. In addition, some drugs lose patent protection, but still manage to get a six month extension due to pediatric exclusivity. Check your formularies monthly to ensure that patients are paying generic copays for these drugs as soon as they are available. The patient will pay generic copays and you will save 10% or more.

USUAL AND CUSTOMARY (U&C) - WHY SHOULD I PAY MORE THAN A CASH PAYING PATIENT?

The U&C is the amount that a pharmacy charges a cash paying patient. Pharmacy contracts usually include "lesser of" logic; namely, pay the lesser of the AWP discount, maximum allowable cost (MAC) or U&C. However, PBM and Health Plan pharmacy contracts frequently do not require the pharmacies in their networks to supply the U&C that they publish on the internet or their discounted generic prices (e.g. \$4 generics). As a result, pharmacies may submit a U&C in the claim that is greater than their published U&C, and the purchaser/payer potentially pays more.

COMMENT: Make sure that your PBM and Health Plan pharmacy contracts include language requiring that pharmacies submit the published or discounted U&C, and that the amount paid per claim is not more than the pharmacy's published or discounted U&C.

MEDICATION ALERT: tri-lo sprintec

Teva Pharmaceuticals settled a patent-infringement lawsuit over the birth-control pill tri-lo sprintec, the generic version of the brand name drug Ortho Tri-Cyclen Lo. As a result of this lawsuit, tri-lo sprintec is no longer available. New and refill prescriptions written for tri-lo sprintec will be processed as Ortho Tri-Cyclen Lo.

Comment: Depending upon the member's benefit plan, the copayment may change. Members should know that the decision to stop making tri-lo sprintec was not a safety issue.

Refer:

1. For more information, please call Teva Pharmaceuticals toll-free at 1-800-292-4283.
2. FDA consumer inquiry line toll-free at 1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332) or visit www.fda.gov.

CHECK YOUR PHARMACY INVOICE LIKE YOU CHECK YOUR SUPPLY INVOICES

Invoices for payments to PBMs and Health Plans for prescriptions filled by their network pharmacies (both retail and mail), should be checked – the same way one would check a grocery or restaurant receipt.

The assumption that electronic claim adjudication is without errors can be dangerous for both medical and pharmacy claims. Pro Pharma's experience indicates that at least 5-7% of all paid drug claims are incorrect. Prime areas for errors are eligibility, pricing, claim validity, payments for benefit exclusions, etc.

Pro Pharma's Invoice Screening™ tool analyzes pharmacy invoices within 72 hours to validate invoices prior to payment.

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To order, call or email Carol Stern at:
1-888-701-5438

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