

Generic Step Therapy Program

CareFirst's Generic Step Therapy Program helps ensure you receive a lower-cost drug option, such as a generic, as the first step in treating your health condition.

Generic drugs meet the same Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards as brand-name drugs; both are equally safe and effective, but generics typically cost significantly less.



Generic and brand-name medicines have the same:

- Active ingredients
- Effectiveness
- Quality
- Safety
- Strength
- Benefits



How Generic Step Therapy works

Kim has a prescription for a brand-name drug. The pharmacist advises Kim that the brand-name drug has a generic alternative which must be used as the first step in treating her condition. If Kim fills the brand-name drug, she may have to pay the full cost.

Generic Step Therapy helps ensure you have access to medications that are effective, safe and cost you less.

Benefit

The generic drug provided Kim with the desired health outcomes at a lower out-of-pocket cost than the brand-name drug.

Exception

The pharmacist tells Kim's doctor that if she experiences side effects or if the preferred drug doesn't work for her, the originally prescribed drug may be authorized with appropriate documentation showing medical necessity.

To learn more about your prescription drug benefits, log in to *My Account* at carefirst.com/myaccount and select *Drug & Pharmacy Resources* or call CareFirst Pharmacy Services at 800-241-3371.