



Cost-Saving News

Are you taking a cholesterol-lowering medication? You can save without compromising quality.

Two brand-name statins (cholesterol-lowering drugs), Pravachol[®] (*pravastatin*) and Zocor[®] (*simvastatin*), are now or are about to be available as lower-cost generic medications. Pravachol is currently available in generic form, and Zocor is expected to be available as a generic in July. If you are using a brand-name statin, you may want to check with your doctor about the possibility of switching your prescription to a generic.

A generic medication is a chemically identical version of a brand-name medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. A generic must contain identical amounts of the same active ingredients—in the same dosage form and strength—as its brand-name counterpart and be shown to work the same way in the body.

This means you get both quality and cost savings, because generic prices are on average 20 to 50 percent less than their brand-name counterparts. In addition, the copay amount for generics is generally less than for brand names.

Your choice of generics can help you keep your insurance premiums low and benefits high.

Drug names are the property of their respective owners.