



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE COVERAGE OF LIPITOR
Brand-Name Lipitor Prescriptions Should be Filled until May 31, 2012

Dear Member:

Catalyst Rx is pleased to administer your pharmacy benefit program. As new medications come to market, we regularly review your prescription drug formulary to make sure you are receiving the highest quality benefits at the greatest value.

On November 30, 2011, the cholesterol-lowering medication Lipitor will become available in generic form. While generic drugs are typically the lowest-cost option on your formulary and are often prescribed as smart alternatives to brand-name medications, there are some exceptions. This will be the case with the generic form of Lipitor, atorvastatin.

When Can Generic Medications Cost More than Brands?

- Once the patent of a brand-name medication expires, generic versions can be manufactured and sold. The first generic manufacturer to enter the market typically enjoys a period of six months as the only supplier. This is known as their “six-month exclusive selling period.”
- At this time, the manufacturer typically begins selling its generic version at a price that is only slightly lower than the cost of the brand-name medication.
- During the manufacturer’s six-month exclusive selling period, health plans and employers pay much more for the generic version because member copayments have been lowered to a Tier 1 or generic copayment, yet the actual cost of the medication still remains high.
- After the six-month exclusive selling period, additional generic manufacturers can begin producing the drug and the cost to health plans and employers lowers significantly.

What Does this Mean for You?

To ensure you continue to receive the most care- and cost-effective treatment, Catalyst Rx has been able to provide an additional discount on Lipitor, which will make Lipitor the lower cost option during the six month exclusive selling period. The following changes to coverage of Lipitor will be implemented on November 30, 2011:

Time Period	Action
November 30, 2011	Brand-name Lipitor will move to your formulary’s Tier 1 or generic copayment level. This means you will pay a generic copayment when filling a prescription for brand-name Lipitor on or after this date.
November 30, 2011 to May 31, 2012	Atorvastatin (generic Lipitor) will NOT be covered for six months until additional generic manufacturers cause the price to drop significantly.
June 1, 2012	Brand-name Lipitor will become a non-preferred medication and Lipitor prescriptions should automatically be filled with atorvastatin at the pharmacy. Members will continue to pay a Tier 1 or generic copayment.

If you are taking Lipitor, you do not need to contact your physician or change your prescription at this time. Beginning November 30, 2011, your pharmacy will continue to provide you with brand-name Lipitor but you will pay a Tier 1 or generic copayment. After June 1, 2012, your pharmacy should automatically fill your prescription with its generic equivalent, atorvastatin.

If you have any questions, please call our Member Services Department at the telephone number listed on your member identification card. Representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist you.

Sincerely,

Catalyst Rx

Brand-names are the property of their respective manufacturers.