

# ConsumerRx<sup>®</sup>

## The Real Cost of Brand-Name Prescription Samples

Many doctors' offices receive brand-name samples from drug manufacturers. Your doctor may give these samples to you. What you should know is that these samples will often cost you more money and possibly more problems in the long-run.

Without question, doctors and other health care providers are the best people to determine the right treatment for you. However, it has been proven that if brand-name medication samples are available, doctors tend to prescribe them.

These samples often cost you more money in the long-run. In many cases, a generic alternative can provide the same treatment at a lower cost to you and your employer.

### More than savings

There may also be safety concerns with new brand-name medications. Here are some things to consider:

- New medications, without proven track records, are sampled most often.
- When you are given samples, you may not have the benefit of pharmacist counseling and may bypass safety checks for medication interactions at your pharmacy.
- The sample medication may need prior authorization - which can be a problem after you are already taking a medication. In some situations, if the medication is not prior authorized you may need pay the full cost of future prescriptions out-of-pocket.

### Serious about support

At Regence, helping members understand their options and save money on prescriptions is serious business. Here are some of the questions we encourage you to ask your doctor when you are considering taking a new medication:

- What is this medication's track record of safety and effectiveness?
- What is the copayment compared to other medications when the samples run out?
- Are there generic alternatives that will work for me?
- Will this medication need prior authorization before I can get my prescription filled?
- Will this medication interact with other medications I am taking?

For more information, please visit [www.regencerox.com](http://www.regencerox.com).

*Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.*



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