

KENTUCKY SAVED \$5.7 BILLION WITH GENERICS



Generic prescription drugs saved Kentucky \$5.7 billion in 2017 and \$265 billion for the U.S. health care system overall. The availability of safe, effective and affordable generics means savings for the state's residents and taxpayers.

In 2017, 9 out of every 10 prescriptions in the U.S. were dispensed using generic drugs, but generics represent only 23 percent of prescription spending. When both brand and generic versions of the prescribed medication were available, the generic was chosen 97 percent of the time.

Breaking Down Kentucky's Savings

Medicaid:
\$1.4 Billion

Commercial Insured:
\$2.1 Billion

Medicare:
\$1.8 Billion

Cash (Non-Insured):
\$276 Million

Abandonment in Kentucky

Prescription medication cannot help the patient who doesn't take it. "Abandonment" occurs when the patient brings or calls in his or her prescription to the pharmacy but does not collect the medicine. In Kentucky, patients abandon their brand-name prescriptions 23.28% of the time, compared to only 8.51% for generics.



**Generic drug
savings in
the U.S.**

Generics are **90%** of
prescriptions dispensed
but only **23%** of total
drug costs

\$265
Billion
**U.S. Savings
in 2017**

\$1.79
Trillion
**10-Year
U.S. Savings**