

# STRATEGIES FOR SAVING ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



- **Go generic.** This is the first place to start. If a generic isn't available, ask your doctor or pharmacist if there's a similar drug with a generic version. Many pharmacies in grocery stores and big-box retailers offer \$4 generics.



- **Compare prices.** Instead of running a prescription through insurance, use an app to compare and find the least expensive option. It's as easy as typing in the drug name, dose, quantity and your zip code. Don't be afraid to pick up the phone and call stores and pharmacies as well.



- **Order a 90-day supply.** Once you know a prescription works well for you, ask if there's a way to get a 90-day supply instead of a 30-day supply. Oftentimes that'll unlock instant savings. Additionally, look into potential savings through a mail-order program.



- **Sign up for a reward program.** Many drugstores and chain stores offer some type of rewards program. It's free to sign up, and you'll receive coupons and accumulate points when you fill prescriptions or use other pharmacy services.



- **Use a preferred pharmacy.** According to AARP, over a third of employers have pre-negotiated lower costs through preferred pharmacies for employee health benefit plans. Find a pharmacy in your network so you can secure a lower copayment and save on costs.



- **Call your insurance company.** Every drug plan has a formulary—a list of drugs covered. Instead of scouring that document, simply call your insurance company and ask if your prescribed drugs are covered. If they are not covered, ask if there's an alternative available.



- **Check for rebates.** Browse manufacturer websites for coupons and rebates. Oftentimes, online deals are available, and you can use those at your pharmacy.



- **Shop around.** Surprisingly, small and independent pharmacies tend to be less expensive than large chain alternatives. It might be worth filling your prescription at the little pharmacy around the corner. Alternatively, pharmacies at wholesale giants have been reported to have consistently low prices. You can fill prescriptions there, whether or not you're a member.



- **Pay with cash.** Pharmacists can tell you if you'll save money by not using your insurance and paying with cash instead.



- **Split pills.** Tablet-splitting isn't safe for all medications, so ask your doctor if your prescription is available in a higher dose that's OK to split. Generally, capsules, coated pills and time-released drugs should not be split.

Scan this QR code for a list of questions you can ask your doctor and/or pharmacist.

