

 		
Generic & Brand Name Prescription Medications and the DoD Formulary		
<p>Background: This survey was fielded on 12 June to 268 council members via an e-mail invitation to Web survey and via mail to 8 without internet access. An e-mail reminder was sent 19 June, and the survey was concluded 22 June. 12 bad e-mail address notifications were received indicating likely delivery to 256, and no mailed surveys were returned undelivered. 140 responses were received via the Web for an e-mail response rate of 55% and 6 responded via business reply mail, a mail response rate of 75%, for a total of 146 responses, and an overall response rate of 55%.</p>		
<p>Participants were provided with the following background statement prior to viewing Question #1. A generic drug is a copy of a brand-name drug. The Food and Drug Administration requires that generics use the same active ingredients, and that they have the same quality, strength, purity, method of administration, stability and work the same way in the body, with the same risks and benefits, as their brand-name counterparts. The initial developer typically markets a new drug using a brand name under patent protection which temporarily gives the company the exclusive right to sell the drug. As the patent nears expiration, manufacturers can apply to the FDA to sell generic versions. Generic drugs are less expensive because generic manufacturers don't bear developmental costs for a new drug, and because once the patent has lapsed there is competition.</p>		
1. Have you (or a family member) ever used a generic prescription medication?		
	#	
Yes	135	94.4%
Not sure	6	4.2%
No	2	1.4%
Grand Total	143	100.0%
2. Do you prefer to use generic or brand name drugs?		
	#	
I do not have a preference	86	60.1%
Generic	29	20.3%
Brand name	27	18.9%
Does not apply	1	0.7%
Grand Total	143	100.0%
3. What are important factors in your decision to choose either a generic or a brand name drug? [Mark all responses that apply]		
	#	
Cost / Affordability	100	27.5%
Effectiveness	94	25.9%
Availability	72	19.8%
Safety	71	19.6%
Other [PLEASE COMMENT IN THE SPACE BELOW]	23	6.3%
Does not apply	3	0.8%
Grand Total	363	100.0%
<p>Note: Comments expressed concern about fraudulent products, fact that other health insurance mandates use of generic, and personal experience that brand name and generic are not equivalent.</p>		

4. What would prohibit you (or your family member) from using a generic drug? [Mark all responses that apply]	#	
There is no generic equivalent for my prescription	106	35.8%
My health care provider told me it's medically necessary for me to use a brand name drug	73	24.7%
I have concerns regarding the effectiveness of generic drugs	41	13.9%
I have concerns regarding the safety of generic drugs	23	7.8%
I have had a negative experience with using a generic drug	23	7.8%
Does not apply	11	3.7%
I don't know enough about generic drugs to be comfortable with a substitution	10	3.4%
Other [PLEASE COMMENT IN THE SPACE BELOW]	6	2.0%
I don't know how to request a generic equivalent of a brand name drug	3	1.0%
Grand Total	296	100.0%
Note: Comments were about evenly split between those expressing opinion generics are equivalent to brand name and those who felt they aren't equivalent.		
5. While discussing your medication with your health care provider, have you or a family member ever requested the generic equivalent for a brand name drug?	#	
Yes	65	46.1%
No	63	44.7%
Not sure	11	7.8%
Does not apply	2	1.4%
Grand Total	141	100.0%
6. In the future, would you be willing to request that your healthcare provider prescribe the generic equivalent for a brand name drug?	#	
Yes	88	63.3%
Not sure	36	25.9%
No	15	10.8%
Grand Total	139	100.0%
Note: In comparing responses to #5 and #6, greater awareness of this issue would likely shift future behavior in favor of at least inquiring about generics. Note especially the shift of "No" responses from 44.7% to 10.8%.		
7. While getting a prescription filled at your pharmacy, have you (or a family member) ever requested the generic equivalent be substituted for a brand name drug?	#	
No	72	51.1%
Yes	58	41.1%
Not sure	7	5.0%
Does not apply	4	2.8%
Grand Total	141	100.0%
8. In the future, would you be willing to request that your pharmacy fill your prescription with the generic equivalent for a brand name drug?	#	
Yes	84	60.0%
Not sure	35	25.0%
No	21	15.0%
Grand Total	140	100.0%
Note: Similar shift as noted in Q#6 above in the proportion of "No" responses from 51.1% to 15%. Beneficiary education on this issue could have a significant impact.		

Participants were provided the following background prior to Question #9. The Department of Defense maintains a preferred list of medications known as the DoD Uniform Formulary. The DoD formulary includes both generic and brand name medications. When there is more than one medication for the same medical condition, the standardized list lowers taxpayer costs. This is done by choosing the less expensive of similar drugs, and by consolidated government orders into higher quantities to get volume discounts. At civilian pharmacies, prescription co-pays are most commonly \$22 for medications not on the DoD formulary, \$9 for brand name medications on the formulary, and \$3 for generic medications on the formulary.

9. Do you know how to determine whether a prescription medication is on the DoD Uniform Formulary?	#	
Yes	71	50.7%
No	53	37.9%
Not sure	16	11.4%
Grand Total	140	100.0%

Note: Half of Council members indicated they know how to access the DoD formulary which is surprising to us. A better question would have been, "How would you determine whether a prescription medication is on the DoD Uniform Formulary?"

10. Please assume you are taking a medication that's not on the DoD Formulary, and that you have a co-pay of \$22 for each refill using either the mail order pharmacy or network retail pharmacy. Would you be willing to ask your doctor about switching to a BRAND NAME medication that is on the DoD Formulary if it would reduce your co-pay to \$9.	#	
Yes	115	81.6%
Not sure	16	11.3%
No	10	7.1%
Grand Total	141	100.0%

11. Please assume the same situation -- you are taking a medication that's not on the DoD Formulary, and that you have a co-pay of \$22 for each refill using either the mail order pharmacy or a network pharmacy. Would you be willing to ask your doctor about switching to a GENERIC medication that is on the DoD Formulary if it would reduce your co-pay to \$3?	#	
Yes	101	72.1%
Not Sure	20	14.3%
No	19	13.6%
Grand Total	140	100.0%

Note: The \$19 cost differential between nonformulary and generic had slightly less impact than the \$13 differential between nonformulary and formulary brand names. Based on responses to other questions (e.g., #12 below), likely some consider their use of a brand name drug more important than a few dollars in cost.

12. If your doctor were willing to prescribe it and it would cost your less, what would concern you about switching from a medication NOT on the DoD Uniform Formulary to one that IS on the DoD Formulary? [Mark all responses that apply]	#	
I would have concerns about effectiveness of the new drug	74	35.4%
I would not be concerned	50	23.9%
Have used current medication for a long period of time and want to stick with it	49	23.4%
I would have concerns regarding the safety	23	11.0%
Other [PLEASE COMMENT IN THE SPACE BELOW]	12	5.7%
Have used current medication for a long period for a long period of time and want to stick with it	1	0.5%
Grand Total	209	100.0%

Note: Comments were similar to Q#3 above.

13. How would you prefer to obtain information about TRICARE's generic drug policy and the Uniform Formulary?	#	
Brochure mailed directly to my home	67	46.5%
TRICARE Website	47	32.6%
Word of mouth from medical clinical staff (doctor's, nurses, or pharmacists)	10	6.9%
Other [PLEASE COMMENT IN THE SPACE BELOW]	8	5.6%
Brochure available at my provider's office	7	4.9%
Brochure available at the pharmacy	5	3.5%
Grand Total	144	100.0%
Note: 5 of the 8 volunteered comments suggested the use of e-mail notifications.		