

Walmart generic drug discounts often offer more patient savings

July 24 2018



(HealthDay)—Walmart's Generic Drug Discount Program (GDDP),

which sells many commonly used generic medications for \$4 per 30-day supply, offers savings over Medicare for some generic cardiovascular medications, according to a research letter published online July 24 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Patrick Liu, from the Yale School of Medicine in New Haven, Conn., and colleagues compared Medicare beneficiary out-of-pocket costs through prescription drug plans (PDPs) with \$4 GDDP cash prices using Walmart's September 2017 GDDP list, focusing on [generic medications](#) used to treat seven prevalent cardiovascular disease (CVD)-related conditions. The proportion of plans requiring patients to spend more than \$4 out of pocket to obtain a 30-day supply for covered medications and each drug's median out-of-pocket cost were examined as the primary outcomes.

The researchers identified 27 generic medications from Walmart's list used for prevalent CVD-related conditions; Medicare PDPs covered a median of 25 medications. A median of 21 percent of plans required patients to spend more than \$4 out of pocket for covered medications. Across all tiers, the median total out-of-pocket cost of covered medications was \$2; significant differences were seen in costs for Medicare Advantage-PDPs (MA-PDPs) and stand-alone PDPs, with MA-PDPs consistently requiring patients to spend more than stand-alone PDPs.

"A substantial proportion of Medicare PDPs in 2017 required patients to spend more out of pocket than Walmart's GDDP for 30-day supplies of 27 generic medications used to treat prevalent CVD-related conditions," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Walmart generic drug discounts often offer more patient savings (2018, July 24)
retrieved 25 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-07-walmart-drug-discounts-patient.html>

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