GENERIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS ARE A GREAT VALUE!
NOW MORE CHOICES!

WHAT ANTIDEPRESSANTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AS GENERICS?

- Four popular SSRI antidepressants are now available as generics: fluoxetine (generic Prozac), citalopram (generic Celexa), paroxetine (generic Paxil), and sertraline (generic Zoloft).
- Fluoxetine and citalopram cost substantially less than typical branded antidepressants.
- Buproprion SR (generic Wellbutrin SR), is now available in all strengths.

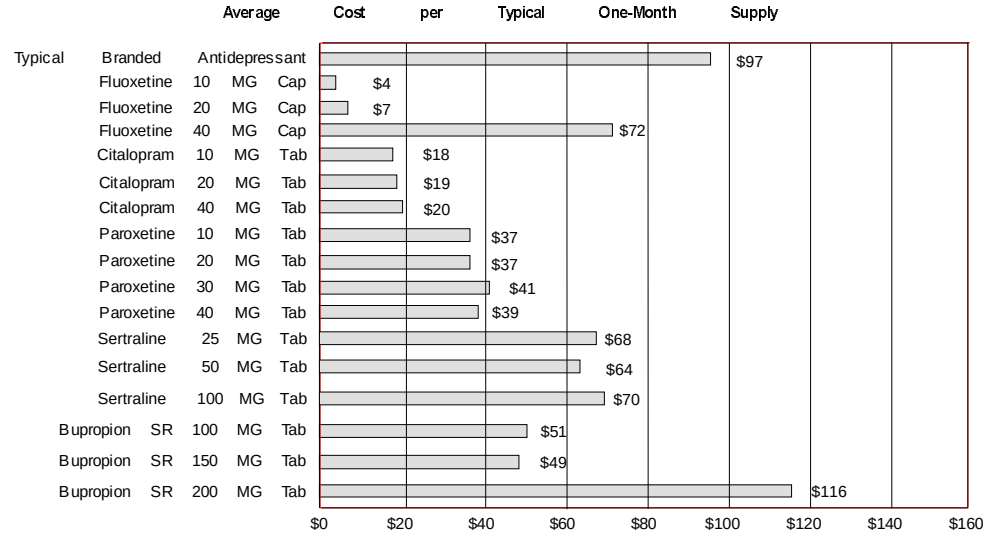
WHY ARE GENERICS IMPORTANT?

- More generic choices could have a profound impact on the medication cost for your patients with a CIGNA HealthCare prescription drug benefit.
- As an example, the average cost* for a typical one-month supply of generic fluoxetine 20 mg capsules is now around $8.00*. By comparison, the average one-month supply of a typical branded antidepressant costs on average $97.00**.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO MY PATIENTS?

- For most CIGNA HealthCare members, the amount they pay for generic medications is considerably less than for brand name medications.
- For a typical $10/20/40 drug benefit, a member could save as much as $180 in out of pocket expense over a typical six-month course of therapy.
- Lower patient out-of-pocket cost might also translate into improved medication adherence which is important to successful treatment of depression (1).

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?



WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

- The cost of two generic fluoxetine 20mg capsules is **less than half** the cost of one fluoxetine 40mg capsule. In cases where it is clinically appropriate to divide doses, drug cost would be dramatically less.
- All strengths of generic citalopram are similar in cost, so citalopram might be a cost-effective choice when higher SSRI doses are needed.

WHAT ARE THE KEY STEPS TO SUCCESS?

- Consider generic fluoxetine or citalopram whenever you prescribe an SSRI.
- When prescribing fluoxetine, consider prescribing two 20mg capsules instead of one 40mg capsule in patients who would benefit from divided doses.
- Provide your patients with support on the importance of medication adherence (not missing doses) to help maximize the benefits of any medication you prescribe.

1 Kennedy, J, Erb, C. Prescription inadherent due to cost among adults with disabilities in the United states. American Journal of Public Health. July 2002, No. 7; 1120-1124.

Notes:

*Average cost is the amount that is paid to the dispensing pharmacy, and it is shared by the CIGNA member and the plan/insurer.

** Average cost of typical branded antidepressant is determined by taking the average of the amount paid to the dispensing pharmacy for all branded antidepressant products.

Cost information quoted above is applicable only to patients who have a CIGNA HealthCare prescription drug benefit and might not reflect the retail cost of these drugs.

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