



# Pharmacy Opportunities Focus: Spring 2022

## Prescribe preferred, lower-cost alternatives to high-cost drugs

Encouraging preferred formulary drug options is a good strategy to optimize efficacy, promote safety and minimize cost. When manufacturers increase the price of their branded drugs over time, this can result in significant increases in drug costs. This guide contains a list of various nonpreferred, brand-name drugs that had recent significant price increases and have potential lower-cost, preferred alternatives. The products listed below don't have prior authorization or step therapy requirements. During review of all clinically appropriate options for therapy, this guide can help with selecting the most cost-effective option.

Acne	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Azelex</i> (azelaic acid cream)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Benzamycin (erythromycin-benzoyl peroxide gel)</li> <li>• Generic Differin (adapalene cream/lotion)</li> <li>• Generic Epiduo (adapalene-benzoyl peroxide gel)</li> <li>• Generic Retin-A (tretinoin cream/gel)</li> <li>• Generic Tazorac (tazarotene cream)</li> </ul>
Anticoagulants	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Fragmin</i> (dalteparin injection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Arixtra (fondaparinux injection)</li> <li>• Generic Lovenox (enoxaparin injection)</li> </ul>
<i>Savaysa</i> (edoxaban tosylate tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliquis (apixaban tablet)</li> <li>• Pradaxa (dabigatran tablet)</li> <li>• Xarelto (rivaroxaban tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Zontivity</i> (vorapaxar tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Plavix (clopidogrel tablet)</li> </ul>
Anti-infectives	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Difcid</i> (fidaxomicin tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Vancocin (vancomycin capsule)</li> </ul>
<i>Xifaxan</i> (rifaximin 200 mg tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Cipro (ciprofloxacin tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Floxin (ofloxacin tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Levaquin (levofloxacin tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Zithromax (azithromycin tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Xifaxan</i> (rifaximin 500 mg tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Constulose (lactulose solution)</li> <li>• Generic Elavil (amitriptyline tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Pamelor (nortriptyline capsule)</li> <li>• Generic Silenor (doxepin capsule)</li> <li>• Generic Tofranil (imipramine tablet)</li> </ul>
Antimetabolites	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Purixan</i> (mercaptopurine oral suspension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Purinethol (mercaptopurine tablet)</li> </ul>
Blood formation modifiers	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Leukine</i> (sargramostim injection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nivestym (filgrastim-aafi injection)</li> <li>• Zarxio (filgrastim-sndz injection)</li> </ul>



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Bronchodilators	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Lonhala Magnair</i> (glycopyrrolate nebulizing solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yupelri (revefenacin nebulizing solution)</li> </ul>
Cardiovascular	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Dutoprol</i> (metoprolol succinate/ hydrochlorothiazide tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Toprol XL (metoprolol succinate tablet) plus generic Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide capsule)</li> </ul>
<i>Qbrelis</i> (lisinopril solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Capoten (captopril tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Epaned (enalapril maleate oral solution)</li> <li>• Generic Lotensin (benazepril tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Monopril (fosinopril tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Prinivil (lisinopril tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Tekturna HCT</i> (aliskiren hemifumarate/ hydrochlorothiazide tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Avalide (irbesartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Benicar HCT (olmesartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Diovan HCT (valsartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Hyzaar (losartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Micardis HCT (telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide tablet)</li> </ul>
Central nervous system	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Bunavail</i> (buprenorphine HCl/naloxone HCl film)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone film)</li> <li>• Generic Subutex (buprenorphine sublingual tablet)</li> <li>• Zubsolv (buprenorphine/naloxone orally-disintegrating tablet)</li> </ul>
Dermatology	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Bryhali</i> (halobetasol propionate lotion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Clobevate (clobetasol propionate cream)</li> <li>• Generic Cyclocort (amcinonide ointment)</li> <li>• Generic Diprolene (betamethasone dipropionate augmented lotion)</li> <li>• Generic Topicort (desoximetasone ointment)</li> <li>• Generic Vanos (fluocinonide cream)</li> </ul>
<i>Duobrii</i> (halobetasol propionate/tazarotene lotion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Calcitrene (calcipotriene ointment)</li> <li>• Generic Tazorac (tazarotene cream)</li> </ul>
<i>Fluoroplex</i> (fluorouracil cream)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Aldara (imiquimod cream)</li> <li>• Generic Efudex (fluorouracil cream)</li> </ul>
<i>Verdeso</i> (desonide foam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Cordran (flurandrenolide lotion)</li> <li>• Generic Cutivate (fluticasone lotion)</li> <li>• Generic Desonate (desonide gel)</li> <li>• Generic Derma-Smoothe (fluocinolone acetonide topical oil)</li> <li>• Generic Diprolene (betamethasone dipropionate augmented lotion)</li> </ul>



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Gastrointestinal Agents	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Osmoprep</i> (sodium phos monobasic/dibasic tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Gavilyte (peg3350/sod bicarb/sodium chloride/kcl solution)</li> <li>Generic Moviprep (peg3350/sod sul/nacl/kcl/asb/c solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Plenvu</i> (sodium, potassium, ascorbic acid solution)	
<i>Suprep</i> (sodium, potassium, mag sulfates solution)	
Gout	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Mitigare</i> (colchicine capsule)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Colcris (colchicine tablet)</li> </ul>
Multiple sclerosis	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Aubagio</i> (teriflunomide tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Copaxone (glatiramer acetate injection)</li> <li>Generic Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate capsule)</li> <li>Bafiertam capsule (monomethyl fumarate capsule)</li> <li>Betaseron (interferon beta-1b kit)</li> <li>Vumerity (diroximel fumarate capsule)</li> </ul>
<i>Gilenya</i> (fingolimod capsule)	
Obstetrics and gynecology	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Angeliq</i> (drospirenone/estradiol tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Amabelz (estradiol/norethindrone acetate tablet)</li> <li>Generic Fyavolv (ethinyl estradiol/norethindrone acetate tablet)</li> <li>Prempro (conjugated estrogens and medroxyprogesterone acetate tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Bijuva</i> (estradiol/progesterone capsule)	
<i>Annovera</i> (segestrone acetate/ethinyl estradiol ring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Apri (desogestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>Generic Azurette (desogestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>Generic Eluryng (etonogestrel/ethinyl estradiol ring)</li> <li>Generic Jasmiel (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>Generic Kelnor (ethynodiol diacetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Balcoltra</i> (ethinyl estradiol/levonorgestrel kit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Aurovela (norethindrone acetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>Generic Beyaz (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol/levomefolate calcium kit)</li> <li>Generic Cryselle (norgestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>Generic Jasmiel (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>Generic Kelnor (ethynodiol diacetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Combipatch</i> (estradiol/norethindrone acetate transdermal patch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Amabelz (estradiol/norethindrone acetate tablet)</li> <li>Generic Fyavolv (ethinyl estradiol/norethindrone acetate tablet)</li> <li>Premphase (conjugated estrogens and medroxyprogesterone acetate kit)</li> <li>Prempro (conjugated estrogens and medroxyprogesterone acetate tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Divigel</i> (estradiol gel packet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Climara (estradiol patch)</li> <li>Generic Dotti (estradiol patch)</li> <li>EstroGel (estradiol gel, metered)</li> </ul>
<i>Elestrin</i> (estradiol gel metered-dose pump)	



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Obstetrics and gynecology	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Evamist</i> (estradiol spray)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Climara (estradiol patch)</li> <li>• Generic Dotti (estradiol patch)</li> <li>• Estrogel (estradiol gel, metered)</li> <li>• Premarin (conjugated estrogens tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Femring</i> (estradiol acetate vaginal ring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Dotti (estradiol patch)</li> <li>• Generic Estrace (estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Estring (estradiol ring)</li> <li>• Estrogel (estradiol gel, metered)</li> <li>• Premarin (conjugated estrogens cream)</li> </ul>
<i>Imvexy</i> (estradiol insert)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Estrace (estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Estring (estradiol ring)</li> </ul>
<i>Intrarosa</i> (prasterone [DHEA] vaginal insert)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premarin (conjugated estrogens cream)</li> </ul>
<i>Lo Loestrin Fe</i> (norethindrone acetate/ethinyl estradiol/ferrous fumarate tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Aurovela (norethindrone acetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Beyaz (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol/levomefolate calcium kit)</li> <li>• Generic Cryselle (norgestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>• Generic Jasmiel (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Kelnor (ethynodiol diacetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Menest</i> (esterified estrogens tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Dotti (estradiol patch)</li> <li>• Generic Estrace (estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Estring (estradiol ring), Estrogel (estradiol gel, metered)</li> <li>• Premarin (conjugated estrogens tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Menostar</i> (estradiol patch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Actonel (risedronate tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Climara (estradiol patch)</li> <li>• Generic Dotti (estradiol patch)</li> <li>• Generic Evista (raloxifene tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Fosamax (alendronate sodium tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Myfembree</i> (relugolix, estradiol hemihydrate, and norethindrone acetate tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Apri (desogestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>• Generic Azurette (desogestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>• Generic Camila (norethindrone tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Jasmiel (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Lysteda (tranexamic acid tablet)</li> </ul>
<i>Natazia</i> (estradiol valerate/dienogest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Aurovela (norethindrone acetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Beyaz (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol/levomefolate calcium kit)</li> </ul>
<i>Nextstellis</i> (drospirenone/estetrol kit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Camrese (levonorgestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>• Generic Jasmiel (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Kaitlib (norethindrone/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> </ul>
<i>Prefest</i> (estradiol/norgestimate tablet kit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premphase (conjugated estrogens and medroxyprogesterone acetate kit)</li> </ul>
<i>Twirla</i> (levonorgestrel/ethinyl estradiol patch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Beyaz (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol/levomefolate calcium kit)</li> <li>• Generic Cryselle (norgestrel/ethinyl estradiol kit)</li> <li>• Generic Jasmiel (drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Kelnor (ethynodiol diacetate/ethinyl estradiol tablet)</li> <li>• Generic Xulane (norgestromin/ethinyl estradiol patch)</li> </ul>



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Ophthalmology	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Acuvail</i> (ketorolac tromethamine ophthalmic drops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Acular (ketorolac solution)</li> <li>Generic Ocufer (flurbiprofen solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Ilevro</i> (nepafenac ophthalmic suspension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Prolensa 0.09% (bromfenac sodium solution)</li> <li>Generic Voltaren Ophthalmic (diclofenac sodium solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Alocril</i> (nedocromil sodium ophthalmic drops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Opticrom (cromolyn sodium solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Besivance</i> (besifloxacin HCl ophthalmic suspension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Ciloxan (ciprofloxacin HCl drops)</li> <li>Generic Moxeza (moxifloxacin solution)</li> <li>Generic Ocuflax (ofloxacin solution/drops)</li> <li>Generic Quixin (levofloxacin drops)</li> <li>Generic Zymaxid (gatifloxacin solution/drops)</li> </ul>
<i>Combigan</i> (brimonidine tartrate/timolol ophthalmic solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Cosopt (dorzolamide HCl/timolol maleate solution)</li> <li>Generic Alphagan (brimonidine tartrate solution) plus Timoptic (timolol maleate ophthalmic solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Lastacaf</i> (alcaftadine ophthalmic solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Bepreve (bepotastine besilate solution)</li> <li>Generic Elestat (epinastine HCl solution)</li> <li>Generic Optivar (azelastine HCl solution)</li> <li>Generic Pataday, Patanol (olopatadine HCl solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Lotemax</i> (loteprednol etabonate ophthalmic ointment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Decadron (dexamethasone sodium phosphate solution)</li> <li>Generic Durezol (difluprednate emulsion)</li> <li>Generic FML (fluorometholone ointment)</li> <li>Generic Inflamase/Forte (prednisolone sodium phosphate solution)</li> <li>Generic Lotemax gel (loteprednol gel)</li> </ul>
<i>Prolensa 0.07%</i> (bromfenac sodium ophthalmic solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Acular (ketorolac solution)</li> <li>Generic Ocufer (flurbiprofen solution)</li> <li>Generic Prolensa 0.09% (bromfenac sodium solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Simbrinza</i> (brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Cosopt (dorzolamide HCl/timolol maleate solution)</li> <li>Generic Alphagan (brimonidine tartrate solution)</li> <li>Generic Azopt (brinzolamide solution)</li> </ul>
<i>Zylet</i> (loteprednol etabonate and tobramycin ophthalmic suspension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Tobradex (tobramycin/dexamethasone suspension)</li> <li>Generic Vasocidin (sulfacetamide/prednisolone solution)</li> <li>Generic Maxitrol (neomycin/polymyxin/dexamethasone ophthalmic ointment)</li> </ul>
Phosphate Binders	
High-cost drug	Lower-cost alternatives
<i>Auryxia</i> (ferric citrate tablet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generic Fosrenol (lanthanum tablet)</li> <li>Generic Renagel (sevelamer HCl tablet)</li> <li>Generic Renvela (sevelamer carbonate tablet)</li> </ul>

OTC = over the counter | Last updated: March 28, 2022

Disclaimer: The products listed may have different FDA-approved indications and package labeling. Alternatives may not be clinically appropriate and professional judgement should be exercised when considering cost-effective alternatives.