

The MedXpress Pharmacy Network, generic medicine and co-payments explained

Generic medicine

Generic substitution remains a voluntary process at the member's discretion. Pharmacists are obligated by law to inform their consumers of the cheapest available generic alternative for prescribed medicine. Discovery Health supports and promotes the use of affordable generic medicines consistent with national and global guidance on affordable access to medicines.

Generic medicines are "same ingredient" equivalent alternatives to brand medicines and are registered with the Medicines Control Council (MCC). Generic medicines have the same clinical effect, safety, efficacy and quality as brand medicines. The recommendation to use best-priced generics is a safe and affordable recommendation aimed to assist consumers.

Designated service providers (DSPs)

The Medical Schemes Act governs our professional practice and allows for the use of designated service providers (DSPs) to ensure that quality healthcare is accessible and affordable for members. The MedXpress Pharmacy Network is a DSP for chronic medicine on certain Discovery Health Medical Scheme plans.

The MedXpress Pharmacy Network

The MedXpress Pharmacy Network comprises of more than 1 800 retail pharmacies nationwide, including a combination of independent community pharmacies and corporate chain pharmacies such as Clicks, Dis-Chem, Medi-Rite and Pick n Pay.

Participation is open to any registered pharmacy partner across the country who meets the participation and performance criteria. The participation criteria are based on the pharmacy's compliance with Discovery Health's preferred medicine lists.

Savings for members and schemes administered by Discovery Health are achieved through a combination of increased use of cost effective medicine on the Discovery Health medicine list and reduced co-payments. The most important benefit is in reduced member co-payments.

The benefits of using the MedXpress Network Pharmacy:

- Members receive assistance from MedXpress Network Pharmacies regarding affordable medicine on our medicine list to avoid any co-payments and receive cover in full for their approved chronic medicine
- Members can walk-in and fill their prescription at any participating MedXpress Network Pharmacy
- Members using a MedXpress Network Pharmacy have lower or no co-payments because these pharmacies will recommend the use of medicines on the Discovery Health medicine list. This benefits the members very significantly and is the most critical reason for the implementation of this network strategy.