

Prescribing for Value

*A pocket guide for prescribers
on therapeutic alternatives to
high-cost medications*



Introduction

This guide is designed to help prescribers quickly identify which drugs in particular classes can reduce costs with no sacrifice in clinical benefit. By using this guide, you can help manage healthcare costs for patients, their families, their employers, and our entire region.

The data in this document represents the average cost of a 30-day retail prescription for commonly prescribed drugs and therapeutic alternatives. Costs are based on Aetna data for the 3rd quarter of 2018.

Actual costs for your patients will vary depending on their employers' contracts, but this guide shows reliable trends in cost differences among medication options within particular classes, even if your patients do not have Aetna insurance.

If your practice would like to consult with a network pharmacist on any of these medication classes or other pharmacy issues, email info@vhan.com.

Legend

**Brand Formulary: This note indicates to use a formulary product if a generic is not appropriate for a specific patient.*

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Acne (Topical)

\$
Least Expensive

\$26.36	Clindamycin MIS Pad 1%
\$61.97	Clindamycin Gel 1%
\$88.16	Clindamycin Lotion 1%
\$131.62	Clindamycin Solution 1%
\$140.85	Tretinoin Cream 0.025%
\$155.85	Tretinoin Cream 0.05%
\$182.70	Tretinoin Cream 0.1%

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More Expensive

\$227.82	Adapalene-Benzoyl Peroxide Gel 0.1-2.5 %
\$248.76	Erythromycin/Benzoyl Gel 5%-3%
\$311.50	Clindamycin/Ben Gel 1-5%
\$462.77	Dapsone Gel 5%
\$481.24	Riax Aerosol 9.5% (benzoyl peroxide foam)
\$537.47	Epiduo Forte Gel 0.3-2.5% (Adapalene-Benzoyl Peroxide)*
\$554.10	Differin Gel 0.3% (adapalene)
\$563.97	Onexton Gel 1.2-3.75% (Clindamycin/Ben Gel)
\$583.24	Evoclin Aerosol 1%

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Most Expensive

\$615.58	Atralin Gel 0.05% (tretinoin)
\$620.65	Aczone Gel 7.5% (dapsone)
\$698.41	Azelex Cream 20% (azelaic acid)
\$753.93	Veltin Gel (clindamycin-tretinoin)
\$757.80	Ziana Gel (clindamycin-tretinoin)
\$969.89	Retin-A Micro Gel Pump 0.8% (tretinoin)
\$996.69	Fabior Aerosol (tazarotene)
\$1,852.43	Clindagel 1% gel (clindamycin)

ADHD

Least Expensive

\$39.59	Methylphenidate IR (immediate release)
\$50.49	Amphetamine/Dextro IR (generic Adderall)
\$66.03	Guanfacine ER ADHD (generic Intuniv)
\$125.41	Amphetamine /Dextro ER (generic Adderall ER)
\$126.59	Dexmethylphenidate (generic Focalin)
\$161.94	Dextroamphetamine (generic Dexedrine)
\$182.89	Clonidine XR-ADHD (generic Kapvay)

More Expensive

\$207.28	Methylphenidate ER (generic Metadate)
\$208.53	Atomoxetine (generic Strattera)
\$247.54	Methylphenidate ER (generic Concerta)
\$277.36	Mydayis (amphetamine/dextroamphetamine ER)
\$297.56	Intuniv (guanfacine ER)
\$283.69	Adderall ER (amphetamine/dextroamphetamine ER)
\$305.47	Vyvanse* (lisdexamfetamine)
\$348.40	Zenzedi (dextroamphetamine)
\$351.14	Adzenys SR (amphetamine SR)
\$354.06	Daytrana DIS (methylphenidate patch)
\$359.36	Quivillant (methylphenidate suspension)
\$414.27	Cotempla (methylphenidate ER)
\$423.93	Evekeo (amphetamine)
\$427.87	Focalin XR (dexmethylphenidate ER)
\$428.40	Adderall IR (amphetamine/dextroamphetamine)
\$430.89	Concerta (methylphenidate ER)

Most Expensive

\$458.00	Kapvay (clonidine ER)
\$491.91	Strattera (atomoxetine)
\$510.14	Ritalin LA (methylphenidate ER)
\$1,172.01	Methamphetamine (generic Desoxyin)
\$1,703.08	Dexedrine CR (dextroamphetamine)

Anticonvulsants

Least Expensive

\$19.78	Topiramate (generic Topamax) (migraine)
\$21.92	Valproic Acid (generic Depakene) (seizure)
\$30.40	Gabapentin (generic Neurontin) (neuropathic pain)
\$31.80	Levetiracetam (generic Keppra) (seizure)
\$34.25	Lamotrigine (generic Lamictal) (seizure)
\$42.01	Phenytoin ER (generic Dilantin) (seizure)
\$67.47	Carbamazepine (generic Tegretol) (seizure)
\$88.17	Divalproex (generic Depakote) (seizure)

More Expensive

\$437.70	Depakote (divalproex)
\$445.79	Tiagabine
\$521.10	Lyrica* (pregabalin)
\$737.76	Depakene (valproic acid)
\$871.91	Vimpat (Lacosamide)
\$940.49	Gabapril (gabapentin)

Most Expensive

\$1,166.14	Lamictal XR (lamotrigine)
\$1,326.24	Aptiom (Eslicarbazepine)
\$3,027.20	Banzel (refinamide) tab 400mg
\$11,449.44	Vigabatrin tab 500mg
\$17,457.44	Sabril (vigabatrin) tab 500mg

Antifungals (Topical)



Least Expensive

\$48.62	Ciclopirox Solution 8%
\$196.96	Luliconazole (generic Luzu)



More Expensive

\$528.09	Luzu Cream 1% (luliconazole)
\$597.77	Jublia Solution 10% 4 ml (efinaconazole)
\$657.79	Oxyconazole Nitrate Cream
\$750.76	Oxistat Cream 1% (oxiconazole)



Most Expensive

\$838.96	Ertaczo Cream 2% (sertaconazole)
\$1,101.96	Jublia Solution 10% 8 ml (efinaconazole)
\$1,586.84	Kerydin Solution 5% (tavaborole)

Anti-Inflammatory Agents (*Topical*)

\$
Least Expensive

\$70.90 Diclofenac Gel 1%

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More Expensive

\$115.96 Voltaren Gel 1% (diclofenac)

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Most Expensive

\$242.90 Diclofenac Solution 1.5%

\$688.69 Flector Dis 1.3%* (diclofenac epolamine)

\$2,655.99 Pennsaid Solution 2% (diclofenac)

Antineoplastic or Premalignant Lesion Agents (Topical)



Least Expensive

\$204.86 Fluorouracil Cream 5%



More Expensive

\$319.14 Tolak Cream 4% (fluorouracil)

\$473.59 Efudex Cream 5% (fluorouracil)

\$571.87 Levulan Kera Solution 20% (only 1 dose) (aminolevulinic acid)

\$774.92 Diclofenac Gel 3%

\$954.98 Fluoroplex Cream 1% (fluorouracil)



Most Expensive

\$2,598.96 Picato Gel 0.015% (only 3 days Tx) (ingenol)

\$3,358.17 Carac Cream 0.5% (fluorouracil)

\$5,182.52 Valchlor Gel 0.016% (mechlorethamine)

\$7,930.13 Panretin Gel 0.1% (alitretinoin)

\$32,413.65 Targetin Gel 1% (bexarotene)

Corticosteroids (Topical)

\$

Least Expensive

\$6.91	Hydrocortisone Cream 2.5% (low potency)
\$16.53	Triamcinolone Cream/Ointment 0.5% (high potency)
\$41.64	Mometasone Cream 0.1% (medium potency)
\$69.30	Augmented Betamethasone Cream 0.05% (very high potency)
\$79.79	Betamethasone dipropionate Cream 0.05% (medium potency)
\$81.38	Fluocinonide Solution 0.05% (high potency)

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More Expensive

\$282.42	Clobetasol Cream 0.05% (very high potency)
\$282.55	Desonide Cream 0.05% (low potency)
\$468.97	Clobetasol Spray 0.05%
\$569.17	Topicort Spray 0.25% (desoximetasone)

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Most Expensive

\$877.95	Verdeso Aerosol 0.05% (desonide foam)
\$930.80	Sernivo Aerosol (betamethasone dipropionate spray)
\$1,144.86	Ultravate Lotion 0.05% (halobetasol)
\$1,171.50	Locoid Lotion 0.1% (hydrocortisone butyrate)
\$1,316.69	Pandel Cream 0.1% (hydrocortisone probutate)
\$1,528.60	Fluocinonide Cream 0.1%
\$1,579.58	Taclonex susp. (calcipotriene-betamethasone)
\$1,729.57	Enstilar Aerosol (calcipotriene-betamethasone)
\$2,238.24	Vanos Cream 0.1% (fluocinonide)

HMG Co-Reductase Inhibitors (*Statins*)

Least Expensive

\$4.19	simvastatin (generic Zocor)
\$4.97	lovastatin (generic Mevacor, Altoprev)
\$6.59	pravastatin (generic Pravachol)
\$7.68	atorvastatin (generic Lipitor)
\$40.34	rosuvastatin (generic Crestor)

More Expensive

\$146.64	Pravachol (pravastatin)
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Most Expensive

\$217.88	Zocor (simvastatin)
\$247.53	Crestor (rosuvastatin)
\$270.93	Livalo (pitavastatin)
\$365.70	Lipitor (atorvastatin)
\$900.46	Altoprev (lovastatin)

Local Anesthetic (Topical)

\$
Least Expensive

\$8.05	Dibucaine Oint 0.1% (OTC)
\$9.99	Salonpas 4% lidocaine patch (OTC)
\$73.43	Lidocaine Cream 4%

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More Expensive

\$225.43	Lidocaine Pad 5%
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Most Expensive

\$282.02	Lidocaine Ointment 5%
\$321.91	Synera Dis 70-70mg (lidocaine-tetracaine)
\$619.74	Astero Gel 4%
\$822.78	Lidoderm Dis 5%
\$885.41	Qutenza Kit 8%

Metformin

\$
Least Expensive

\$5.52	Metformin tab
\$7.05	Metformin XR (Generic Glucophage XR)

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More Expensive

\$89.41	Glucophage XR
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Most Expensive

\$964.07	Metformin ER - Osmo tab (Generic Fortamet)
\$1,928.93	Fortamet
\$3,724.20	Metformin ER-Modi (Generic Glumetza)
\$3,861.01	Glumetza

Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Agents (NSAIDs)

\$

Least Expensive

\$4.66	Meloxicam
\$8.75	Ibuprofen
\$9.15	Sulindac
\$9.49	Naproxen
\$11.39	Nabumetone
\$11.86	Diclofenac sodium

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More Expensive

\$116.84	Celecoxib
\$120.83	Diclofenac w/ Misoprostol (generic Arthrotec)
\$299.25	Zorvolex 35mg (diclofenac)
\$439.04	Tivorbex 20mg (indomethacin)
\$446.71	Arthrotec (Diclofenac w/ Misoprostol)

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Most Expensive

\$624.81	Celebrex (celecoxib)
\$882.97	Vivlodex (meloxicam)
\$1,112.37	Zipsor (diclofenac)
\$1,059.82	Naproxen Sodium CR 375mg (generic Naprelan ER)
\$1,294.17	Naprelan ER (naproxen)
\$1,585.32	Fenortho 200mg cap (fenoprofen)
\$2,352.87	Duexis (ibuprofen-famotadine)
\$2,459.13	Fenoprofen 200mg
\$2,472.48	Vimovo (naproxen-esomeprazole)
\$5,671.98	Sprix Spray

Ophthalmic Prostaglandins

\$
Least Expensive

\$6.36 Latanoprost Solution 0.005%

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More Expensive

\$120.92 Bimatoprost Solution 0.004%

\$145.52 Travoprost Drops 0.004%

\$179.80 Zioptan Drops 0.0015%

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Most Expensive

\$245.33 Xalatan Solution 0.005%

\$257.29 Travatan Z Drops 0.004%

\$286.05 Lumigan Solution 0.01%

\$290.27 Vyzulta Solution 0.024%

Proton Pump Inhibitors

\$
Least Expensive

\$6.69	Omeprazole (generic Prilosec)
\$8.00	Pantoprazole (generic Protonix)
\$66.27	Lansoprazole (generic Prevacid)
\$117.46	Esomeprazole (generic Nexium)
\$117.51	Rabeprazole (generic Aciphex)

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More Expensive

\$269.39	Nexium (esomeprazole)
\$284.34	Dexilant (dexlansoprazole)
\$493.09	Prevacid (lansoprazole)

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Most Expensive

\$521.90	Protonix (pantoprazole)
\$654.88	Aciphex (rabeprazole)
\$2,455.14	Omeprazole/NaBicarb (generic Zegerid)
\$4,350.72	Zegerid (omeprazole/NaBicarb)

Testosterone

\$
Least Expensive

\$39.65 Testosterone Cypionate Injection

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More Expensive

\$317.72 Testosterone Gel 1% (50 Mg)

\$342.81 Testosterone Gel 30mg/Act (Pump)

\$503.98 Fortesta Gel

\$552.46 Axiron Solution 30 Mg/Act

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Most Expensive

\$703.00 Natesto Gel

\$725.08 Androgel Gel 1% (50 Mg)

\$728.75 Striant Mis

\$812.25 Testim Gel 1% (50 Mg)

\$815.84 Androgel Gel 1% (25 Mg)

\$912.30 Androgel Gel 1.62%*

Tetracyclines

\$
Least Expensive

\$21.38	Minocycline cap 100mg
\$24.02	Doxycycline monohydrate 100mg

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More Expensive

\$111.30	Doxycycline hyclate tab
\$490.96	Demeclocycline tab
\$570.60	Tetracycline cap

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Most Expensive

\$707.57	Ximino (minocycline)
\$716.83	Targadox (doxycycline hyclate)
\$1,041.78	Acticlate (doxycycline hyclate)
\$1,234.76	Solodyn (minocycline)
\$1,321.98	Doryx tab (doxycycline hyclate)

Prescribing for Value

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