

Wasteful Drug Examples

(as of November 30, 2023)

Below are various examples of the larger, broader categories, including wasteful drugs that Capital Rx excludes from coverage, resulting in savings upward of 90-99% per switch to a lower-cost alternative.



1. Multi-Source drugs: High-cost branded drugs where less expensive generics are available:

DRUG	INDICATION	ALTERNATIVE
Revlimid® (lenalidomide)	Various blood cancers	Generic lenalidomide
Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate)	Multiple Sclerosis	Generic dimethyl fumarate
Latuda® (lurasidone)	Antipsychotic	Generic lurasidone

2. Fixed-Dose Combinations (“Combo Drugs”): These are drugs with two or more active ingredients in one product that cost substantially more than the individual ingredients in separate products:

DRUG	INDICATION	ALTERNATIVE
Seglantis® (celecoxib/tramadol)	Acute pain	Generic celecoxib + generic tramadol
Entadfi® (finasteride and tadalafil)	Benign prostatic hyperplasia	Generic finasteride + generic tadalafil
Ryaltris® (olopatadine and mometasone)	Rhinitis/allergic rhinitis	Generic olopatadine + generic mometasone (OTC/Rx)

3. Me-too drugs: There are several kinds of me-too drugs in pharma. With these drugs, an immaterial tweaking of a particular ingredient results in a “new,” more expensive drug that adds no clinical value as compared to the less expensive original version.

3a. Me-too drugs with different salts or chemical forms or those with alternatives in the same therapeutic class:

DRUG	INDICATION	ALTERNATIVE
Aplenzin® (bupropion hydrobromide)	Smoking cessation, depression	Generic bupropion hydrochloride
Betimol® (timolol solution)	Glaucoma/ocular hypertension	Generic timolol maleate solution
Edarbi® (azilsartan)	Hypertension	Generic losartan

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Wasteful Drug Examples (Cont.)

3b. Differences in the absorption speed (extended-release vs. immediate-release):

DRUG	INDICATION	ALTERNATIVE
Motpoly XR (Lacosamide extended-release tablet)	Seizures	Generic lacosamide
Karbinal ER™ (Carbinoxamine extended-release suspension)	Antihistamine	Generic carbinoxamine suspension
Rayos® (Prednisone Delayed-Release)	Various inflammatory conditions	Generic prednisone

3c. Drugs with different formulations (a cream vs. lotion, capsule vs. tablet, packet vs. capsule, etc.):

DRUG	INDICATION	ALTERNATIVE
Cephalexin Tablets	Bacterial infections	Generic cephalexin capsules
Bryhali® (halobetasol lotion)	Various skin conditions	Generic halobetasol cream
Proair Respiclick® (albuterol aerosol powder)	Asthma	Generic albuterol HFA, aerosol solution

3d. Outlier cases (e.g., drugs where therapeutic alternatives exist in different drug classes):

DRUG	INDICATION	ALTERNATIVE
Jublia® (Efinaconazole 10%)	Toenail fungus	Generic Terbinafine (OTC) Generic ciclopirox solution
Kerydin™ (Tavaborole)	Toenail fungus	Generic Terbinafine (OTC). Generic ciclopirox