

# GENERIC ANTIDEPRESSANTS ARE A GREAT VALUE! NOW MORE CHOICES!



CIGNA HealthCare

## 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.
- ◆ Bupropion SR (generic Wellbutrin SR), is now available in all strengths.

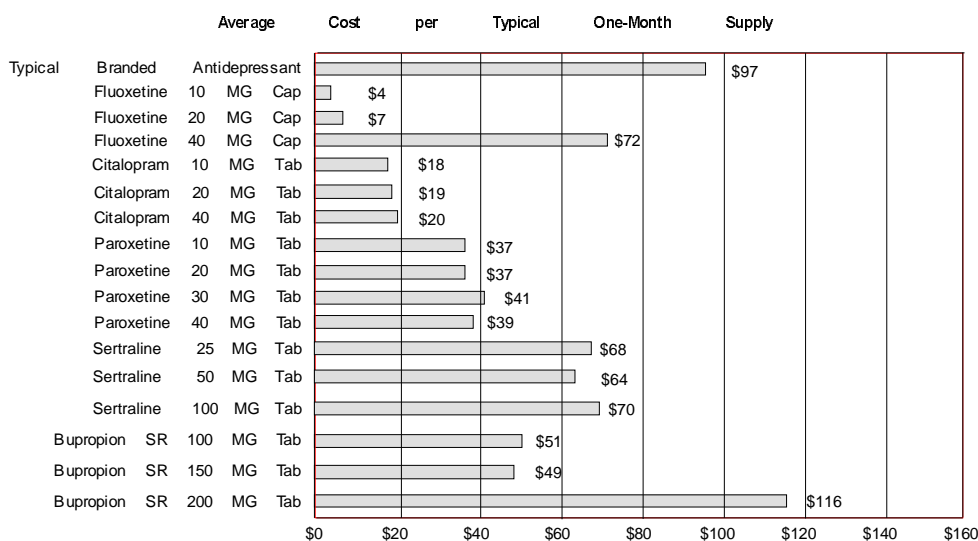
## WHY ARE GENERICS IMPORTANT?

- ◆ 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.

<sup>1</sup> Kennedy, J, Erb, C. Prescription in adherent 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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