

Did you know...

Since January 14 2013, the RAMQ reimburse its participants according to the price of the less expensive generic drug. This means that the amount reimbursed is now calculated using the price of the generic drug available on the market, no matter if the person consumes the generic version or the original version.

In fact, generic drugs on the market are sold at a lower price than the original drugs since generic drugs manufacturers do not had to invest for many years in research and development to create the medication. These companies actually copy the ingredients of original drugs for which the patent had expired.

Pharmaceutical companies creating original drugs receive a patent for a limited period of a few years which authorized them to be the only distributors of the medication on the market at the price they determine.

It is important to know that if the original drug is unique on the market, the RAMQ has to obligation to reimburse the price at the price given. However, if the participant has the opportunity to consume the generic drug, but decide to consume the original one, the reimbursement will be limited to the price of the generic drug and the exceeding part is to be paid by the participant.

Only with this modification, the RAMQ forecasts a substantial economy of 150 M \$ during fiscal year 2013-2014.

Some private insurers also adopted this new procedure on the market by requiring the generic substitution for all their groups. However, if medical reasons (allergies or other) prevent a participant from consuming the generic drug, it is possible for him to ask for a form to its insurer to be completed by his doctor. This form should indicate the reasons why this person cannot consume the generic drug. Then, the insurer will analyse the situation and will reimburse the participant according to the price of the original drug.

In long-term, this proactive measure will certainly have a positive impact on group insurance experience. If you need more information on this procedure, our specialists are always informed and will be happy to answer your questions!

