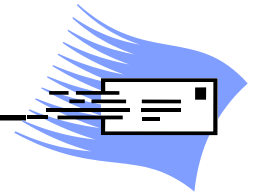




ManateeChoice Health Plan

Fast Facts



FAST FACTS is published by the Manatee Health Network (MHN) to provide Members with the opportunity to better understand medical conditions, various treatment options, and the impact of these options on member costs. **FAST FACTS** should be used in addition to the advice of your physicians, pharmacists, & other healthcare professionals.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Mental Health: How to save money on your medication

Severe and Persistent Psychiatric Conditions

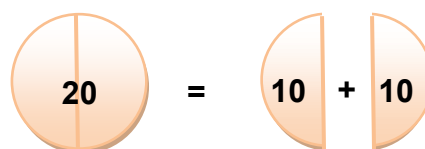
Some severe mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, can be treated with a type of medications called “Atypical Antipsychotics.” This name can be very misleading - many people can benefit from these medications even if they have never experienced psychosis. These medications work by reducing the effect that a chemical called dopamine has on the brain. Extremely high levels of dopamine can cause severe mental health symptoms such as psychosis. Medications that work against dopamine help treat these symptoms. “Psychiatric Dopamine Blockers” might be a better name for this class of medications. There are many available drugs in this class, such as:

Risperdal (risperidone)	Zyprexa (olanzapine)
Abilify (aripiprazole)	Invega (paliperidone)
Geodon (ziprasidone)	Clozaril (clozapine)
Seroquel (quetiapine)	Symbyax- olanzapine (Zyprexa) plus fluoxetine (Prozac)

Only Risperdal (risperidone) is available in a generic version. The rest of these medications are brands. As with many medications, antipsychotics can cause side effects such as weight gain, diabetes and high cholesterol. Although these effects may be problematic, you can take steps to cope with them. Healthy eating, regular exercise and psychological counseling are all helpful strategies to manage weight gain and other side effects.

Cut Your Medication Costs in Half

Another way to save on the cost of medications is by cutting your pills in half. Certain medications, including Abilify, Seroquel and Zyprexa, can be split in half. Splitting these medications in half can save you 50% each month, potentially hundreds of dollars each year!



To learn more and to get your FREE tablet splitter, call Chris Williams, your pharmacy advocate, at 748 4501 ext 6406.

Ways to Save

If you are currently taking a brand “atypical antipsychotic” medication , you may be able to save money by switching to a generic prescription medication.

- Generic medications are **\$0 copay** for Manatee members at MHN Preferred Network Pharmacies! Members also save on brand name prescription drugs when they fill them at MHN Preferred Network Pharmacies. The MHN Preferred Network includes all Sweetbay Pharmacies throughout Florida, as well as Foster Drugs and Pelots Pharmacy.
- If you and your doctor decide that this generic prescription medications is right for you, you can save \$100 or more each month, totaling as much as **\$1200 per year in savings!**
- Check out the following chart to see your potential savings:

	MHN Preferred Pharmacy (Costs per Month)	Non-Preferred Pharmacy (Costs per Month)
Cost of Brand Seroquel or Brand Zyprexa	20% of the drug cost (Approximately \$56)	25% of the drug cost (Approximately \$70)
Cost of Brand Abilify or Brand Geodon	40% of the drug cost (Approximately \$100)	50% of the drug cost (Approximately \$100)
Cost of Generic Risperdal	\$0 No cost to member	\$5
If you use Seroquel or Zyprexa instead of generic Risperdal, it will cost you an extra...	\$672 (\$56 x 12 months) <u>-\$0 (\$0 x 12 months)</u> =\$672 per year	\$840 (\$70 x 12 months) <u>-\$60 (\$5 x 12 months)</u> =\$780 per year
If you use Abilify or Geodon instead of generic Risperdal, it will cost you an extra...	\$1200 (\$100 x 12 months) <u>-\$0 (\$0 x 12 months)</u> =\$1200 per year	\$1200 (100 x 12 months) <u>-\$60 (\$5 x 12 months)</u> =\$1140 per year

If the cost of your medication becomes a compliance issue, please contact your Manatee pharmacy advocate, Chris Williams, for help.

Only your doctor can decide which medication is right for you. If you and your doctor decide to try a different medication, your doctor just needs to write (or call-in) a prescription for one of these products.

Manatee Health Disclaimer

The information in this newsletter is not a substitute for medical advice. It is for reference only and should not be used to determine treatment for your specific medical conditions-only a health care provider can do this. You should seek prompt medical care for any specific health issues and consult you physician regarding the use of over-the-counter products to treat any medical condition or consult your physician regarding the use of prescription or over-the-counter products to treat any medical condition or before starting any new diet, fitness, or supplement regimen.

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