

## **Evidence-Based Research**

### ***Helping Consumers and Health Care Providers Evaluate Prescription Drugs Effectively.***

With the growing number of new drugs, it's more difficult for a person or their health practitioners to decide which medication best fits an individual's needs.

And, with a wide variation in the cost of drugs used to treat the same medical problem, such as heartburn, it's hard to judge whether a higher priced drug is better or not.

To help overcome this challenge, legislation was passed in Oregon directed at evaluating the relative effectiveness and safety of similar medications. The resulting information can help you and your health practitioners make more informed decisions about which drugs you take and perhaps lower the cost.

Through the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research, Oregon is pioneering a new process for evaluating the effectiveness of similar prescription drugs based on evidence gained from numerous medical studies.

This process gives consumers and health professionals a new way to understand and evaluate the cost and effectiveness of prescription drugs. Evidence-based research reports are available on-line at <http://www.oregonrx.org>.

For more information on Evidence-Based Research or other prescription drug issues contact:

#### **Oregon Health Resources Commission**

Public Service Bldg, 5th Floor  
255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310  
(503) 378-2422

<http://www.oregonrx.org>

*Learn more about Oregon's evidence-based research process.*

#### **Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance**

(800) 722-4134 or (503) 947-7984

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#### **AARP Oregon**

9200 SE Sunnybrook Blvd, Suite 410

Clackamas, Oregon 97015-5762

E-mail: [oraarp@aarp](mailto:oraarp@aarp)

<http://www.aarp.org/or/rx>

*Consumer friendly information about drug effectiveness and other senior advice.*

#### **Oregonians for Health Security**

9813 SE Hwy 212,

Clackamas, OR 97015

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E-mail: [info@oregoniansforhealthsecurity.org](mailto:info@oregoniansforhealthsecurity.org)

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*Join in advocating for quality, affordable and secure health care.*

### **Talk to Your Doctor!**

**A lower-cost, equally-effective prescription may be available.**

# **Prescription Drug Guide:**



## **Your Guide to Evaluating Prescription Drug Costs and Effectiveness**

# Drug Price Guide

The following prescriptions in each class have been reviewed by the Health Resources Commission. Except where indicated, the Health Resources Commission has not found evidence that any one drug is more effective than another for most conditions. With the growing number of new drugs and wide variance in cost, it is important to talk with your health care provider to find the right prescription for you. The following information is intended to help you evaluate the cost of similar medications. Generic prescriptions are in italics.

Prices listed are estimates based on package size, using the average wholesale price. Prices will vary- check with your pharmacy or insurance plan to determine actual cost.

Price Guide	
\$0-\$25	\$
\$26-\$89	\$\$
\$90-\$199	\$\$\$
over \$200	\$\$\$\$

## Drug Classes without Significant Difference in Effectiveness

Heartburn, Stomach Acid, Ulcer (Proton Pump Inhibitors)			
Aciphex 20mg 90	\$\$\$	Prevacid Susp 15mg 30	\$\$\$
Nexium 20mg 90	\$\$\$	Prilosec 20mg 100	\$\$\$
Omeprazole 20mg 100	\$\$\$	Protonix 40mg 90	\$\$\$
Prevacid 30mg 100	\$\$\$		

Chronic Pain			
Dolophine 5mg 100	\$	<i>Morphine CR 30mg 100</i>	\$\$\$
<i>Methadone 5mg 100</i>	\$	MS Contin 30mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Methadose 5mg 100</i>	\$	Oramorph 30mg 100	\$\$\$
Levo-Dromoran 100	\$\$	Oxycontin 10mg 60	\$\$\$
Kadian 30mg 60	\$\$\$	Duragesic patch 50mcg 5's	\$\$\$\$

Overactive bladder			
<i>Oxybutnin 5mg 100</i>	\$	Detrol LA 4mg 30	\$\$\$
Bethanechol 10mg 100	\$\$	Ditropan XL 5mg	\$\$\$
Ditropan 5mg 100	\$\$	Urecholine 10mg 100	\$\$\$
Detrol 2mg 30	\$\$\$	Urispas 100	\$\$\$

Muscle Spasms (Skeletal Muscle Relaxants)			
<i>Chlorzoxazone 500mg 100</i>	\$	Flexeril 10mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Methocarbamol 500mg 100</i>	\$	Norflex 100	\$\$\$
Quinine Sulfate 325mg 100	\$	Norgesic 100	\$\$\$
<i>Carisoprodol 350mg 100</i>	\$\$	<i>Orphenadrine 100</i>	\$\$\$
<i>Cyclobenzaprine 10mg 100</i>	\$\$	Parafon Forte 500mg 100	\$\$\$
Dantrium 25mg 100	\$\$	Skelaxin 400mg	\$\$\$
Robaxin 750mg 100	\$\$	Zanaflex 4mg 150	\$\$\$
<i>Tizanidine 4mg 150</i>	\$\$	Soma 350mg 100	\$\$\$\$
Baclofen 20mg 100	\$\$\$		

High Cholesterol Lowering			
Altacor 40mg 30	\$\$	<i>Lovastatin 20mg 100</i>	\$\$
Crestor 20mg 90	\$\$	Mevacor 20mg 90	\$\$
Lescol 20mg 100	\$\$	Pravachol 20mg 90	\$\$\$
Lescol XL 80mg 100	\$\$	Zocor 20mg 90	\$\$\$
Lipitor 10mg 90	\$\$		

Joint Muscle Pain, Arthritis (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory)			
<i>Ibuprofen 600mg 100</i>	\$	Arthrotec 75mg 60	\$\$\$
<i>Nabumetone 500mg 100</i>	\$	Bextra 20mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Naproxen 500mg 100</i>	\$	Celebrex 200mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Naproxen Sodium 550mg 100</i>	\$	Clinoril 200mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Piroxicam 20mg 100</i>	\$	Daypro 600mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Diclofenac Potassium 50mg 100</i>	\$\$	Indocin 50mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Diclofenac Sodium 75mg 100</i>	\$\$	Lodine 400mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Etodolac 400mg 100</i>	\$\$	Lodine XL 400 100	\$\$\$
Feldene 20mg 100	\$\$	Mobic 15mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Fluriprofen 100mg 100</i>	\$\$	Naprosyn 500mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Indomethacin 50mg 100</i>	\$\$	Relafen 500mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Ketoprofen 75mg 100</i>	\$\$	<i>Tolmetin 600mg 100</i>	\$\$\$
Motrin 600mg 100	\$\$	Vioxx 25mg 100	\$\$\$
<i>Oxaprozin 600mg 100</i>	\$\$	Voltaren 75mg 100	\$\$\$
Salflex 500mg 100	\$\$	Ansaid 100mg 100	\$\$\$\$
<i>Salsalate 500mg 100</i>	\$\$	Cataflam 50mg 100	\$\$\$\$
<i>Sulindac 200mg 100</i>	\$\$	Tolectin 600mg 100	\$\$\$\$
Anaprox DS 550mg 100	\$\$\$		

Antidiabetic agents			
Glipizide 5mg 100	\$	Glucotrol 5mg 100	\$\$
<i>Glipizide ER 10mg 100</i>	\$	Glucotrol XL 10mg 100	\$\$
Glucophage XR 500mg 60	\$	<i>Glyburide 5mg 100</i>	\$\$
<i>Glyburide Micronized 3mg 100</i>	\$	Glynase 3mg 100	\$\$
<i>Metformin ER 500mg 100</i>	\$	<i>Metformin 500mg 100</i>	\$\$
Amaryl 2mg	\$\$	Micronase 5mg 100	\$\$
Diabeta 5mg 100	\$\$	Prandin 1mg 100	\$\$\$
Glucophage 500mg 100	\$\$	Starlix 120mg 100	\$\$\$

Menopause (Estrogen) Drugs			
Estrace 1mg 90's	\$	Climara patch 0.05mg 8's	\$\$
<i>Estradiol 1mg 100's</i>	\$	Esclim 0.05mg 8's	\$\$
<i>Estropipate 0.75mg 100</i>	\$	Estraderm 0.05mg 8's	\$\$
<i>Gynodiol 1mg 100</i>	\$	Estratest 1.25/2.5mg 60	\$\$
Menest 1.25mg 100	\$	Ortho-Est 0.75mg 100	\$\$
Ogen 0.625mg 100's	\$	Premarin 0.625mg	\$\$
Alora 0.05mg 8's	\$\$	Prempro 0.45/1.5mg	\$\$
Genestin 0.625mg 100	\$\$	Vivelle patch dot 0.05mg 8's	\$\$

## Drug Classes with Significant Difference in Effectiveness

Migraine treatment			
Amerge 2.5mg (9)	\$\$\$	Maxalt 5mg (6)	\$\$\$
Axert 12.5mg (6)	\$\$\$	Relpax 20mg (12)	\$\$\$
Frova 2.5mg (9)	\$\$\$	Zomig 2.5mg (6)	\$\$\$
Imitrex 50mg (9)	\$\$\$		

Note: Efficacy differences were found with migraine treatments. According to the Health Resources Commission, "It appears that a 10 mg oral dose of rizatriptan (sold as brand name Maxalt) is the most effective triptan, based on whether a person had pain relief or was pain free at 2 hours after taking a triptan plus had pain relief for 24 hours." The HRC's triptan subcommittee recommends that it be the initial triptan of choice for treatment of migraines after the symptoms have begun. They also acknowledge that triptan therapy must be individualized and once a medication works it should be continued.

Information published March 2004.  
Information will be updated as more drug classes are evaluated.