Preventive health care is considered by experts in the health field to be the best insurance against illness. It is also important to remember that many prescribed medicines can become habit-forming.

If you are taking prescribed medication, stay in touch with your health care practitioner and ask questions. Never take any prescribed medication without the approval of your health care practitioner.

For free information on staying healthy, visit the New York State Department of Health website: www.health.ny.gov and click on “Press Releases & Reports.”

An important message from...

Assemblyman
Alfred C. Graf

Dear Neighbor,
For too long, New Yorkers – especially the elderly, sick, and those with disabilities – have paid unnecessarily high prices for necessary prescriptions.

However, thanks to the Generic Drug Substitution Law, consumers can save up to 50 percent on some prescription drug costs.

Under this law, every pharmacy must maintain an up-to-date list of the generic and brand name drugs that are medically equivalent. You are assured of safe, high-quality drugs at substantially reduced prices. This law can result in significant savings for you and your family.

Remember, tell your health care practitioner that you would like a generic drug prescription and make this law work to your full advantage.

If I can be of additional help to you in this or any other matter, please call my office.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Graf
Member of Assembly

Reminder:
Clip and carry for handy medical reference.

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<th>In case of emergency, please notify</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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Medical alert information:  

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Saves you money on your prescriptions.

Assemblyman
Alfred C. Graf

District Office:
991 Main Street, Suite 202
Holbrook, NY 11741
631-585-0230

Albany Office:
Room 433, LOB
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5937

Email:
grafa@assembly.state.ny.us

Compliments of...
Assemblyman
Alfred C. Graf

www.assembly.state.ny.us
Tell your health care practitioner
YOU WANT THE LOW-COST GENERIC DRUG...

What is a generic drug?
A generic drug is known by its chemical name (e.g., penicillin), not by a brand name given to it by the manufacturer. Under its generic name, a drug can cost 30 percent to 70 percent less than the same drug sold under a brand name.

May I insist on less expensive drugs?
New York State Law requires your pharmacist to dispense the low-cost, officially approved, equivalent drugs, if your health care practitioner approves the substitution. The cheaper substitutes will generally be non-patented, “generic” drugs. They must be included in the official New York State Health Department list of approved, medically equivalent drugs.

Can I be sure a less expensive drug is a safe and effective substitute to the brand name drug?
Every pharmacy has a copy of a list of safe, effective, interchangeable drugs, which it must maintain. Furthermore, most hospitals and state institutions have been using drugs sold under their generic names for some time.

How can my pharmacist help make the law work?
Your pharmacist should maintain an official listing of interchangeable drugs and can recommend the most economical, equivalent drugs.

How does the prescription pad encourage the use of generic drugs?
The pad makes it easier to prescribe a generic equivalent rather than a brand name drug. Previously, brand name drugs would be used to fill prescriptions unless the health care practitioner specifically indicated that generic equivalents were acceptable. The current prescription form indicates that generic substitutes will automatically be used to fill the prescription unless the health care practitioner specifically orders the use of a brand name.

Three important steps in generic drug substitution:
Inform
Talk to your health care practitioner.
Tell your health care practitioner you want the most effective, low-cost medication. He or she must approve its use for you. Be aware of branded generic drugs. There may be an even less expensive equivalent available.

Compare
Shop for best price.
Comparison shop at a few local pharmacies since drug prices can vary from store to store.

Call
Call with questions.
If you have any problems with this law, contact your local state department of health office, state office for the aging, or your local consumer protection agency. Also, my office is always ready to help.

Be aware of the branded generic.
Some drug companies have created products called “branded generics” by combining a brand name with the chemical name of the drug. While this product is cheaper than the more expensive brand name drug, there is probably a less expensive equivalent on the state list. You should ask your pharmacist about the most economical way to fill your prescription.