

Facts About:

Generic Rx Drugs: Cost and Quality

- ▶ Manufacturing standards are exactly the same for both brand name and generic prescription drugs.
- ▶ The average brand name prescription drug costs over 3 times more than the average generic prescription drug.
Brand name: \$71.18 Generic: \$21.96
- ▶ Generic prescription drugs account for 45% of all filled prescriptions.
- ▶ Generics account for only \$11 billion of the \$130 billion annually spent on prescription drugs.
- ▶ The U.S. generic drug market has an average annual growth rate of 11.4% and is projected to grow to over \$19 billion in 2006.

- ▶ Generic prescription drugs save consumers an estimated \$8–\$10 billion per year at retail pharmacies.
- ▶ Of the 200 top selling prescription drugs in 2002, 132 had generic equivalents.
- ▶ Brand name drug manufacturers are linked to an estimated 50% of generic drug production, frequently producing the generic equivalent of their own brand name drug.
- ▶ Of the top five U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturers, the top two are generic companies.

A Project of the **Heinz Family Philanthropies**: Teresa Heinz, Chairman; Jeffrey Lewis, President (jlewis@heinzoffice.org) and **Medco Health Solutions**.