

636 Grand Avenue
PO Box 9232
Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9232
web site: www.wellmark.com



Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa
Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc.

December 2009

Dear Member:

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield is changing its policy on the cost difference when you choose a brand name drug when a generic equivalent is available for the following drugs:

- Topamax
- Keppra
- Lamictal

Current literature* regarding antiepileptic drugs, indicates that existing users of brand name medications who switch to generic name medications after being on the brand name medication may experience epileptic events requiring medical care. Your prescription drug policy, coverage manual or certificate **currently** indicates you are responsible for the cost difference between a brand name medication when you obtain a brand name medication when a generic equivalent is available. Our records indicate that you are taking one of the above mentioned brand name medications. Since, you have a history of taking one of these brand name medications, beginning December 15, 2009, **you will not be required to pay the difference between the brand name medication and the generic for these medications (Keppra, Lamictal, or Topamax)**. You will still be responsible for your cost-share/copayment.

You may notice a cost decrease the next time you fill your prescription for one of the above-mentioned medications. Enclosed is a check for the cost difference between the brand name medication and generic medication you paid from April 01, 2009 until November 13, 2009, for Keppra, Lamictal or Topamax.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Mathew Hosford".

R. Mathew Hosford, RPh
Pharmacy Director

*Reference: *The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics*, www.medicalletter.org. Volume 51, October 13, 2009.