



The latest news from AOK for you

Agreements on medical drugs: Same quality – lower costs

**Dear AOK policy holders,
to make more money available for health care, AOK has negotiated discount agreements with drug manufacturers. This makes the provision of medical drugs a lot cheaper without compromising their quality. All the holders of AOK policies stand to benefit directly from this.**

The medication agreements concern important, frequently prescribed medicines, including medical drugs for high blood pressure or diabetes. That you won't always get the same medication in the pharmacy is nothing new, because pharmacists, too, have been obliged to comply with economic aspects for a number of years. They are required to provide you with one of the three cheapest drugs available – insofar as your physician has not expressly ruled this out.

It goes without saying that AOK policy holders will only ever be provided with high-quality medication. AOK pays particular attention to the quality and availability of medical drugs when selecting manufacturers, as well as the reliability of its trade partners.

Do you have any further questions?

Our AOK branch offices will gladly help you. You can also find more information and a current list of the products covered by the AOK discount agreements online at:

www.aok.de/azrnei

Another preparation, but the same active ingredients

AOK's medication agreements mainly concern generic products. These are so-called "copy products" produced by other manufacturers after the patent for an original preparation has expired. Generic products are tested before their approval, just like all new medicines, and also subject to the exacting standards of the German Medicinal Products Act.

This type of medication has exactly the same composition as the original. This means that the medication you are provided with in your pharmacy will always have exactly the same active ingredients and be of exactly the same strength as the medication prescribed to you by your doctor. The only difference is that it has been produced by another manufacturer. The packaging and medicine itself will usually look different for this reason.

Your doctor has the last word

Your doctor's freedom of choice where your treatment is concerned is not restricted by these discount agreements. He or she decides which medication is right for you. The prescription made out by your doctor specifies an active ingredient or a specific medicinal product. If your doctor has not excluded the replacement of this medicinal product, the pharmacist will provide you with an identical product made by one of the manufacturers that AOK has an agreement with.

Pharmacists know which medications come under the discount regulation. If your preparation should be out of stock, contrary to expectations, your pharmacy will procure it as quickly as possible. Failing that you will be provided with another product containing the same active ingredients. The costs of this will be covered by AOK.

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