

# Rx

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# UPDATE



## Authorized Generic Imitrex® (sumatriptan) Launches

Imitrex (sumatriptan) is part of the class of drugs known as triptans. As a class, these agents are commonly used in the treatment of migraine headaches. Commonly used triptan agents include Imitrex, Maxalt®, Relpax® and Zomig®. Imitrex is the most commonly utilized triptan agent and is available in many forms, including injection, nasal spray and tablets.

On November 24, 2008, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories announced that it has launched an authorized generic version of the GlaxoSmithKline's Imitrex (sumatriptan) tablets. An authorized generic version of Imitrex (sumatriptan) injection has been launched as well. The nasal formulation is not available as a generic at this time. The actual date of a true generic product is anticipated to occur in the first half of 2009.

Authorized generics are pharmaceutical products that are originally marketed and sold by a brand company, but relabeled and marketed under a generic product name. A brand pharmaceutical company may choose to launch an authorized generic for a variety of reasons. An authorized generic may be utilized for settling patient litigation with a generic company, allowing the brand company to maintain manufacturing capability while continuing to receive revenue from the product.

Authorized generics are sold at a lower cost, as an alternative to the branded product. They are typically considered to be brand products, thus bypassing the rigorous generic drug approval process. For this reason, authorized generic products adjudicate as a brand product.

The sumatriptan authorized generic products only offer an approximate 10 percent savings over the brand products. Catalyst Rx is not recommending the implementation of any utilization management strategies at this time. Catalyst Rx is currently exploring utilization management strategies for the triptan class of medications after the expiration of the initial exclusivity period ends.

As part of our pharmacy benefit management services, Catalyst Rx partners with clients, members, physicians and pharmacies to provide updates regarding industry news and changes to product availability. Catalyst Rx will continue to carefully monitor the situation and provide updates as appropriate. If you have questions, please call the Catalyst Rx Clinical Department at 702-869-4600 or the Catalyst Rx Customer Service Department at 1-800-997-3784.