

PUBLIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE PLAN

CHANGE TO THE PRICE PAID FOR BRAND NAME DRUGS

On January 14, 2013, the Régie changed the amount it reimburses persons insured under the public plan for some 60 brand name drugs. The Régie now pays the lowest price, that is, the price of the generic drug(s) corresponding to each brand name drug.

This means that an insured person who goes to a pharmacy with a prescription to get one these brand name drugs can obtain an equivalent generic drug.

The cost of the 60 or so brand name drugs concerned is still reimbursed by the public plan. However, all insured persons wishing to obtain one of the brand name drugs instead of an equivalent generic drug will have to pay the cost difference, where applicable.

This is not a new situation. Until now, each year the Régie has reimbursed a number of prescription drugs at the lowest price (usually the generic drug price) after the end of the period during which the price of the branded drug is protected (called the *15-year rule*).

The price change to the 60 or so brand name drugs on January 14, 2013 is in keeping with the announcement made by the Québec Minister of Finance and the Economy in the 2013-2014 budget speech: the 15-year rule aimed at protecting the price of brand name drugs appearing on the *List of Medications* for less than 15 years has been abolished.

The list of prescription drugs concerned is available at www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca

**Régie de
l'assurance maladie**

Québec 