

It is absolutely critical to maintain the ability to obtain brand name prescriptions.

I spent over two years with my blood level (TSH) for low thyroid being out of the normal range enough for my provider (general practice in Roseburg, Oregon) to either increase or decrease the amount of medication I was taking every time the blood test results were received. Three or four months later I would have follow-up blood work only to find out I needed to change the amount of medication again. This repeated and repeated. This, of course, was accompanied by low thyroid issues including fatigue, hair loss, and bursting into tears in a Dairy Queen for no apparent reason. I now spend time in Yuma, Arizona and in this location I found a specialist, an Endocrinologist, to see for my thyroid issues. She immediately insisted I go on brand name Synthroid. She insists that I never take a generic. She explained that the FDA allows a plus or minus of 10% for critical ingredients in generic medications and explained how a pharmacy can change the brand of generic when they refill prescriptions. Brand Name Synthroid was imperative for my levels to be maintained and be consistent for my health. I have not had one increase or decrease since she stabilized me on Synthroid. I have follow-up blood work to verify how good I feel now.

I care for my son who lives with serious mental illness. He also sees this doctor for his thyroid issues. She immediately prescribed brand name Synthroid. In the past a specific medication has made a tremendous difference for David. He now takes Closaril – Teva Brand. I beg the pharmacy to keep him on the same brand. He hears voices and has delusions. We cannot imagine being able to care for our David if he were to start experiencing increased psychiatric issues. Keeping him stable and consistent is very important for us to be able to care for him and for him to be as healthy and happy as possible.

This is only one example of a family trying to care for an individual. Imagine the cost for his care in a facility if we could no longer manage his care because of inconsistencies in his prescribed medications. **Plus or minus 10%** in the number of voices heard or delusions experienced could cost more in human suffering and state expenditures than imaginable.

Darlene & Harvey Brooks