Prevention: Generic Truvada

The first generic Truvada is now available in the United States.

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The first generic versions of Truvada (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine) and Atripla (efavirenz/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine) went on the market in the United States in October. Although emtricitabine is still under patent, Gilead Sciences gave Teva Pharmaceuticals exclusive rights to sell generic versions of the combination pills a year early. Truvada is used for both HIV treatment and prevention, and advocates hoped a lower-cost generic would help widen access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). However, at a cost of about $1,455 per month, the generic version doesn't offer much of a price break compared with brand-name Truvada, which typically sells for around $1,600 to $1,800 per month. Like Gilead, Teva is offering a co-pay card to cover out-of-pocket expenses. But a real price break could come next spring, when other companies will be allowed to produce their own generics. Generic Truvada is already available in other countries for around $25 a month.

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