

Understanding Dispense as Written (DAW) Penalty

A "Dispense as Written Penalty" is an extra cost that you might have to pay when you get a brand-name drug instead of a generic version. If you choose or are prescribed a brand-name drug when a generic is available, you may pay more out of pocket—this extra cost is the DAW penalty.



What is the difference between DAW 1 and DAW 2?

DAW 1

DAW 1 is when your **prescriber** insists on the brand-name drug.

What It Means: Your prescriber specifically asks the pharmacy to give you the brand-name drug and says "no" to using a generic version.

What Happens: The pharmacy must give you the brand-name drug because that's what your prescriber wants. You may have to pay more out of pocket because your pharmacy benefit prefers to cover the generic version.

DAW 2

DAW 2 is when **you** ask for the brand-name drug.

What It Means: You, the patient, ask for the brand-name drug even though your prescriber is okay with you taking a generic version.

What Happens: The pharmacy will give you the brand-name drug as you requested, but like with DAW 1, you might have to pay more because your pharmacy benefit prefers to cover the generic version.

Will the generic version work as well as the brand-name drug?

Generic and brand-name drugs have the same:



Active Ingredients



Safety



Effectiveness



Strength



Quality



Benefits