

# TENNESSEE'S HEALTH CARE CRISIS.

## TIME FOR ACTION.

### CRISIS:

Tennessee has the highest prescription drug use per capita of any state in the country.<sup>1</sup>

### CRISIS:

Tennessee is in the top ten of all states for communicable diseases, smoking, heart disease, cancer and death from vehicle trauma.<sup>2</sup>

### CRISIS:

Costs in Tennessee for physician and specialist services are 17 percent higher than the Southeast average.<sup>3</sup>

### CRISIS:

Tennessee has a health care cost crisis that threatens the very existence of a system that has treated us well.

### SOLUTION:

Ask your doctor if there is a generic substitute. Increasing the use of generics by only 10 percent could save Tennesseans \$150 million a year.

### SOLUTION:

Reverse the trend. Ask your doctor what you as an individual should do for your good health. And follow the advice.

### SOLUTION:

Talk to your doctor about options that could provide the needed results at lower costs. For example, an x-ray can sometimes be just as effective as an MRI, which costs ten times as much.

### SOLUTION:

Get involved. Talk with your doctor, your family, your friends. Visit [www.bcbst.com](http://www.bcbst.com) or [www.TennesseeHealth.com](http://www.TennesseeHealth.com) and learn the facts.

Recently, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee asked people across the state to join together in addressing the health care crisis we face here in Tennessee. The problem is complex and deep-rooted. It will not be solved quickly or easily. We can not leave it to the government or any single group to do it for us.

The solution will be a shared one. Together we can make Tennessee a state respected for quality and affordable health care.

This message is one in a series brought to you by BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. For more information on what you can do or to learn which commonly prescribed drugs are available as generics, please visit [www.bcbst.com](http://www.bcbst.com) or [www.TennesseeHealth.com](http://www.TennesseeHealth.com).



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of Tennessee**

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