

## Allergies and Hay Fever – The Antihistamines – Cost Comparison

Updated November 2006 (Prices for September 2006)

Generic Name and Dose	Brand Name <sup>1</sup>	Drug is a Generic or Branded Generic? <sup>2</sup>	Drug is OTC <sup>3</sup>	Use per Day <sup>4</sup>	Average Monthly Cost <sup>5</sup>
Cetirizine chewable tablet 5mg	Zyrtec	No	No	Two	\$203
Cetirizine tablet 5mg	Zyrtec	No	No	Two	\$200
Cetirizine chewable tablet 10mg	Zyrtec	No	No	One	\$93
Cetirizine tablet 10mg	Zyrtec	No	No	One	\$89
Cetirizine Syrup 10mg/10ml	Zyrtec	No	No	One	\$123 <sup>7</sup>
Desloratadine dissolving tablet 5mg	Clarinet Reditabs	No	No	One	\$104
Desloratadine syrup 5mg/10ml	Clarinet	No	No	One	\$52 <sup>7</sup>
Desloratadine tablet 5mg	Clarinet	No	No	One	\$115
Fexofenadine tablet 30mg <sup>6</sup>	Allegra	No	No	Four	\$88-\$131
Fexofenadine capsule 60mg <sup>6</sup>	Allegra	No	No	Two	\$82-\$118
Fexofenadine tablet 180mg <sup>6</sup>	Allegra	No	No	One	\$66-\$108
Fexofenadine tablet 30mg <sup>6</sup>	Generic	Yes	No	Four	\$67-\$104
Fexofenadine tablet 60mg <sup>6</sup>	Generic	Yes	No	Two	\$67-\$114
Fexofenadine tablet 180mg <sup>6</sup>	Generic	Yes	No	Two	\$54-70
 <b>Loratadine dissolving tablet 10mg</b>	Alavert	BG	Yes	One	\$16-\$24
Loratadine dissolving tablet 10mg	Clarinet Reditabs	BG	Yes	One	\$17-\$48
 <b>Loratadine dissolving tablet 10mg</b>	Generic	Yes	Yes	One	\$10-\$27
 <b>Loratadine tablet 10mg</b>	Alavert	BG	Yes	One	\$18-\$23
Loratadine tablet 10mg	Clarinet	BG	Yes	One	\$17-\$33
 <b>Loratadine tablet 10mg</b>	Generic	Yes	Yes	One	\$6-\$18
Loratadine syrup 10mg/10ml	Clarinet	BG	Yes	One	\$27
 <b>Loratadine syrup 10mg/10ml</b>	Generic	Yes	Yes	One	\$21
Cetirizine/pseudoephedrine tablet 5/120mg <sup>8</sup>	Zyrtec-D	No	No	Two	\$86 <sup>7</sup>
Loratadine/pseudoephedrine tablet 5/120mg	Alavert-D	BG	Yes	Two	\$30-\$54 <sup>7</sup>
Loratadine/pseudoephedrine tablet 5/120mg	Clarinet-D	BG	Yes	Two	\$36-\$50 <sup>7</sup>
Loratadine/pseudoephedrine tablet 5/120mg	Generic	Yes	Yes	Two	\$25-\$40 <sup>7</sup>
Loratadine/pseudoephedrine tablet 10/240mg	Clarinet-D	BG	Yes	One	\$27-\$39 <sup>7</sup>
Loratadine/pseudoephedrine tablet 10/240mg	Generic	Yes	Yes	One	\$7-\$25 <sup>7</sup>

- (1) "Generic" indicates that this drug is sold as a generic.
- (2) "Yes" means it is a generic, sold under the chemical name. "BG" means it is a branded generic, which is a generic copy of an original drug but one given a special name by its generic manufacturer. In this table, for example, Claritin and Alavert are branded generics. "No" means it is a brand-name drug not yet available as a generic or a branded generic.
- (3) OTC stands for over-the counter; "yes" means it is a nonprescription OTC drug. Price ranges are given for OTC drugs because prices in drug, food and discount stores vary so widely.
- (4) Frequency of use reflects usual frequency for adults; children would be prescribed lower doses. Some of these medicines may be prescribed for use more or less frequently than indicated here. Follow your doctor's directions and those on your pill bottle.
- (5) For drugs available by prescription only, monthly costs reflect nationwide retail average prices for September 2006, rounded to the nearest dollar. Information derived by *Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs* from data provided by Wolters Kluwer Health, Pharmaceutical Audit Suite, except where noted for Allegra and generic fexofenadine. For drugs available OTC, monthly costs reflect prices obtained in late October 2006 from four online pharmacies and one small independent pharmacy in Maryland. Price ranges are given for OTC drugs because prices vary widely for these products.
- (6) Prices for Allegra and its generic equivalent fexofenadine, which became available in October 2005, have been in flux. The monthly cost ranges presented here reflect data from Wolters Kluwer Health as cited above but also from three online pharmacies. The online pharmacy prices were obtained on November 2, 2006.
- (7) We could not obtain an updated price for this product. Cost presented in from December 2005.
- (8) Pseudoephedrine is a decongestant. Such products should be used with caution by people with high blood pressure, heart conditions, diabetes, glaucoma, or prostate disease.