







# Hormone Drugs to Treat Menopause – Cost Comparison

Updated June 2006 (Costs for April 2006)

Generic Name	Brand Name <sup>1</sup>	Dose Ranges	Frequency of Use <sup>2</sup>	Average Monthly Cost <sup>3</sup>
<b>Estrogen-only pills</b>				
Estradiol	Estrace	0.5-2.0mg	1 daily	\$42-\$59
 Estradiol	Generic	0.5-2.0mg	1 daily	\$9-\$14
 Estradiol	Gynodiol	0.5-2.0mg	1 daily	\$15-\$24
Conjugated equine estrogen	Premarin	0.3-1.25g	1 daily	\$38-\$47
Synthetic conjugated estrogen	Cenestin	0.3-1.25mg	1 daily	\$46-\$49
 Esterified estrogens	Estratab, Menest	0.3-1.25mg	1 daily	\$21-\$62
Estropipate	Ogen, Ortho-Est	0.625-2.5mg	1 daily	\$31-\$81
Estropipate	Generic	0.625-3.0mg	1 daily	\$13-\$27
<b>Estrogen-only skin patches</b>				
Estradiol	Climara	0.025-0.1mg per 24 hours	1 weekly	\$49-\$56
Estradiol	Estroderm	0.05-0.1mg per 24 hours	2 weekly	\$57-\$62
Estradiol	Esclim	0.025-0.1mg per 24 hours	2 weekly	\$50-\$54
Estradiol	Menostar	0.014mg per 24 hours	1 weekly	\$63
 Estradiol	Vivelle, Vivelle Dot	0.025-0.1mg per 24 hours	2 weekly	\$42-\$61
 Estradiol	Alora	0.025-0.1mg per 24 hours	2 weekly	\$46-\$53
 Estradiol	Generic	0.05-1.0mg per 24 hours	1 weekly	\$30-\$34
<b>Estrogen-only skin creams</b>				
Estrodiol	Estrogel	1.25 grams	Once daily	\$41
Estradiol	Estrasorb	3.5 grams	Once daily	\$63
<b>Estrogen plus progesterone pills</b>				
Conjugated equine estrogen/medroxyprogesterone	Prempro, Premphase	0.3-.625/1.5-5mg	1 daily	\$52-\$54
Estradiol plus norgestimate	Ortho-Prefest	1mg/0.09mg	1 daily	\$44
Estradiol plus norethindrone	Activella	1mg/0.5mg	1 daily	\$51
Ethinylestradiol plus norethindrone	Femhrt	0.5mg/1mg	1 daily	\$51

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<b>Estrogen plus progesterone skin patches</b>				
Estradiol plus levonorgestrel	Climara Pro	0.045mg/0.015mg per 24 hours	1 weekly	\$54
Estradiol plus norethindrone	CombiPatch	0.05mg/0.14mg per 24 hours	2 per week	\$54
<b>Estrogen-only vaginal creams, tablets or rings</b>				
 Conjugated equine estrogen	Premarin Cream	0.625mg/gram	1/2 to 1 grams a day	\$20-\$40 <sup>4</sup>
 Estriopipate	Ogen Cream	1.5mg/gram	1 to 2 grams a day	\$33-\$66 <sup>4</sup>
Estradiol	Estrace Cream	1.5mg/gram	1 to 2 grams a day	\$42-\$85 <sup>4</sup>
Estradiol tablet	VagiFem	0.025mg	1 daily for two weeks then 10 a month	\$42-\$48
 Estradiol	FemRing	0.05-0.1mg per 24 hours	One every 3 months	\$44-\$49
 Estradiol	Estring	0.0075mg per 24 hours	One every 3 months	\$46
<b>Progesterone pills</b>				
Medroxy-progesterone	Cycrin, Provera	2.5mg	1 daily	\$28
Medroxy-progesterone	Cycrin, Provera	5mg to 10mg	1 daily part of month <sup>5</sup>	\$22-\$27
 Medroxy-progesterone	Generic	2.5mg	1 daily	\$10
 Medroxy-progesterone	Generic	5mg to 10mg	1 daily part of month <sup>5</sup>	\$8-\$12
Norethindrone	Aygestin	5mg	1 daily part of month <sup>5</sup>	\$38
Progesterone	Prometrium	100mg, 200mg	Part of the month	\$25-\$47

1. Generic means that this line quotes the average price of available generics
2. As typically prescribed. May vary and that will affect the cost. Prices for creams are calculated for common dose ranges. Part of the month = 15 days.
3. Monthly costs reflects nationwide average retail price in April 2006, rounded to nearest dollar. Also reflects varying price of different doses. Lower doses are less expensive, higher doses more expensive. Information derived by *Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs* from data provided by Wolters Kluwer Health, Pharmaceutical Audit Suite.
4. Price range for these creams depends on how much is applied. Use is generally for 21 days of each month and price is calculated on that basis.
5. May also be used one per day for a full month. If so, price would be greater than listed.