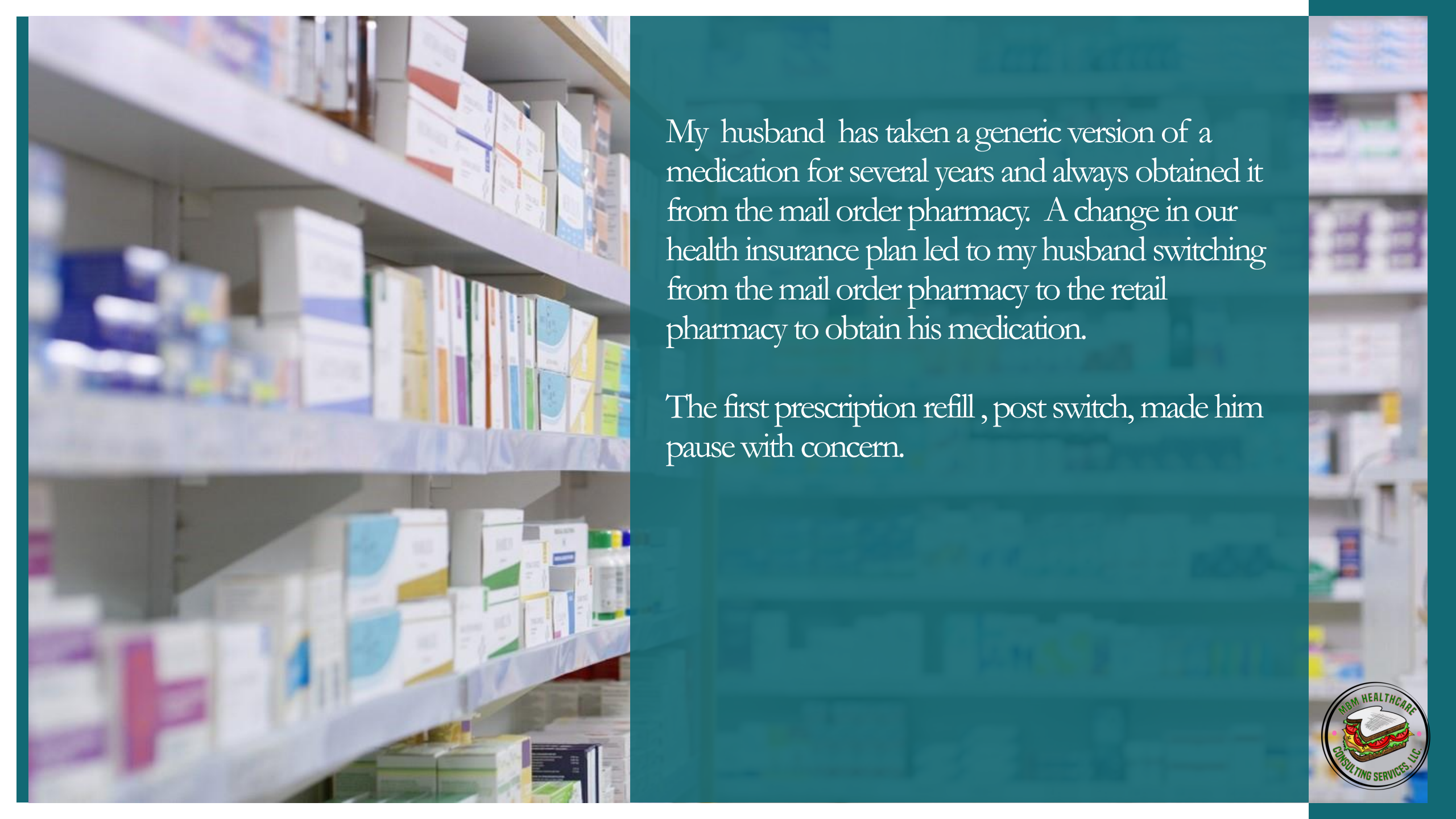


Caregiver Conversations  
Some Medications are the Same





My husband has taken a generic version of a medication for several years and always obtained it from the mail order pharmacy. A change in our health insurance plan led to my husband switching from the mail order pharmacy to the retail pharmacy to obtain his medication.

The first prescription refill, post switch, made him pause with concern.



The pill my husband was accustomed to taking looked like this one.



The pills he received from the retail pharmacy looked like this one.



My husband was concerned, understandably so, that he may have received the incorrect medicine. While the name of the drug listed on the bottle was the same, the actual pill itself looked different.

I asked to see the prescription bottle for each of the pills. Upon review of the labels, I was able to determine: 1) the medication was correct and 2) why the pills looked different.



The medication is a generic version and manufactured by multiple pharmaceutical companies. The mail order pharmacy he used for many years obtained their supply from a different manufacturer than the one used by the retail pharmacy. The numbers and letters etched on the pills are specific to the manufacturer.



To further confirm that he had been provided the correct medication, we looked up each manufacturer's version of the pill online and verified the pills he had in his possession matched the images of the medication found online.



Medication errors occur in our medical system at an alarming rate. If you have a question or concern about a medication you have been prescribed or have received, you should ask the pharmacist and/or your prescribing physician.

