

About MedSavvy

What is MedSavvy?

MedSavvy is a licensed, non-dispensing pharmacy with a mobile-optimized website providing health benefit and cost information that patients, caregivers and doctors need to make medication decisions. MedSavvy assigns evidence-based letter grades – A, B, C, D, F and I (Incomplete) – to medications making it easier to compare them. Grades are based on objective criteria developed from best practices in evidence-based medicine, and assigned by a team of pharmacists who have specialized training in clinical evidence review and evaluation. In addition to these grades, users can view an average cost for quick comparison between treatment options.

Users can access the clinical data behind the grades, as well as post ratings and reviews about their own medication experiences. MedSavvy's team of licensed pharmacists offer their expertise to share relevant medication updates and noteworthy insight through Savvy Talk.

MedSavvy is a subsidiary of Cambia Health Solutions. Cambia is headquartered in Portland, Oregon. Subsidiaries range from software and mobile applications, health care marketplaces, non-traditional health care delivery models, health insurance, life insurance, pharmacy benefit management, wellness and overall consumer engagement.

How is MedSavvy different from other drug information sites?

Many health websites and medication tools display information related to conditions and treatments with some cost information. Only MedSavvy includes evidence-based letter grades for medications and treatments, making it easier to compare them side-by-side.

How is MedSavvy different from FDA clinical review?

MedSavvy assesses specific evidence for a medication or treatment's benefits, effectiveness and safety, and compares medication therapies. The FDA is tasked with determining if a specific medication is safe and effective and therefore can be marketed for specific uses.

How does MedSavvy account for off-label use, subpopulations or other unique circumstances?

Currently, MedSavvy publishes significant, meaningful differences in safety and effectiveness of medications and treatments, as well as cost differences. MedSavvy proactively offers specified, relevant data to their users and alerts them to actionable information. Regarding off-label use, MedSavvy assesses medications according to scientific evidence regardless of FDA indication.

How do people access MedSavvy?

MedSavvy is a mobile-optimized website. Mobile-optimized means the MedSavvy website is designed to be easy to read and navigate on desktops as well as smaller screens, such as mobile phones and tablets.

Can users save their medication information in MedSavvy?

Yes. MedSavvy has the Medicine Cabinet feature, similar to a dashboard. Users can create a Medicine Cabinet for themselves as well as separate Medicine cabinets for others; such as family members. By searching for a medication and selecting “Add to Medicine Cabinet,” the user can add medications and receive alerts if there has been a change in safety, cost, etc. Also, if a user chooses to “follow a condition,” this will show in their Medicine Cabinet and they will receive relevant alerts.

MedSavvy Grades

Who determines the grades and how?

Our team of licensed pharmacists assign an evidence-based letter grade to a medication or treatment option for a disease, illness, or health condition that it treats. The grade is based on objective criteria developed from best practices in evidence-based medicine. Our team of pharmacists have specialized training in clinical evidence review and evaluation.

What do the grades mean?

MedSavvy pharmacist evaluations are based on extensive review of scientific studies on a specific medication or treatment for a particular condition. These grades give an indication of the net health benefit that can be expected from a treatment.

- A** means strong, well done scientific studies show significant improvement in health
- B** means strong, well done scientific studies show a small to moderate improvement in health
- C** means studies are promising and there may be an improvement in health
- D** means there is no proven health benefit and the medication may do more harm than good
- F** means the medication is not effective and the harms are known to outweigh the benefit for a certain condition
- I** means studies are incomplete and inconclusive, we don't know if the medication works and it may even be harmful

How do you decide which drugs to grade?

MedSavvy grades medications that treat common conditions, and incorporates additional medications to meet the needs of their user community. This may be determined by the medications that the community has been filling at the pharmacy, the treatments that were searched for in MedSavvy, or the requests that were submitted by users directly to MedSavvy support.

Will you be adding more graded drugs?

Yes. To help with this, doctors, patients and caregivers can request medications and conditions they'd like to see in MedSavvy. After receiving a review request, MedSavvy pharmacists will prioritize producing published reviews based on certain factors including prevalence of the health condition, conditions with high cost treatments, and conditions with multiple medication options.

Do grades change?

Because science is always evolving, a medication or treatment's grade for a specific health condition may change over time, especially for new medications as market experience and new clinical study results become available. If site visitors elect to follow a condition in MedSavvy, they will be notified if information is added or modified, including grade changes.

Do you consider patient ratings and reviews or costs when determining grades?

No. Grades are based on objective criteria developed from best practices in evidence-based medicine, and assigned by a team of pharmacists who have specialized training in clinical evidence review and evaluation. The patient ratings and reviews and costs are supplemental to the formal evaluation.

Many health organizations offer recommended standards and guidelines for care. Do you consider those standards and guidelines in your treatment grades?

We consider, and plan to continue seeking outside expert input during the assessment process. Standards and guidelines that use best practices in evidence-based methodology, systematic reviews, and have a clearly described critical appraisal process may be included in our treatment grades.

What is the review process prior to publishing grades?

Findings are internally reviewed and approved by a team of pharmacists who have specialized training in clinical evidence review and evaluation, using a rigorous assessment methodology recognized by the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER). ICER is a nationally recognized independent research organization that studies the effectiveness and value of drugs.

MedSavvy Cost Information

How did you come up with the costs?

Medication costs are estimated by pooling average cost per prescription based on "allowed amounts" paid to pharmacies by a large regional health plan for current claims.

Can users see more than just average cost?

Cost notes are included to indicate what strength, quantity, package size, day supply, etc. were used in the estimate. Users can update their User Profile with their employer-sponsored health plan information to view their benefit-specific cost under the "What does it cost?" section.

How does MedSavvy interface with patients' health insurance plans for benefit-specific cost?

MedSavvy will provide an estimate of the price a patient will pay under their health plan benefit, when insurance information is added by the user to their profile. If a deductible applies, the cost will be displayed as “you pay pre-deductible” and as “you pay post-deductible”.

Who is MedSavvy for?

Who uses MedSavvy?

MedSavvy is designed for patients, caregivers, and doctors. MedSavvy empowers patients and caregivers by pulling back the curtain on the opaque system of prescription drug pricing, effectiveness and value. It’s also intended to serve as a shared central resource for doctors and patients researching and considering medication choices.

How do doctors use MedSavvy?

Doctors know diseases and conditions inside-out and they are usually well-informed about clinical trials. With a rising number of medications being approved each year, it is challenging for doctors to stay up on the latest medication information. Doctors frequently do not have access to drug costs, an important consideration for many patients. MedSavvy is a simple tool to make this information readily available.

If a user has access to MedSavvy through their employer, can they share their registration code with family?

Yes. Users who received a registration code through their employer can share this code with their family members for them to create their own accounts. If the family member would prefer not to have their own account, the employee can also manage a Medicine Cabinet for them and receive relevant alerts for their medications and any conditions they follow.