



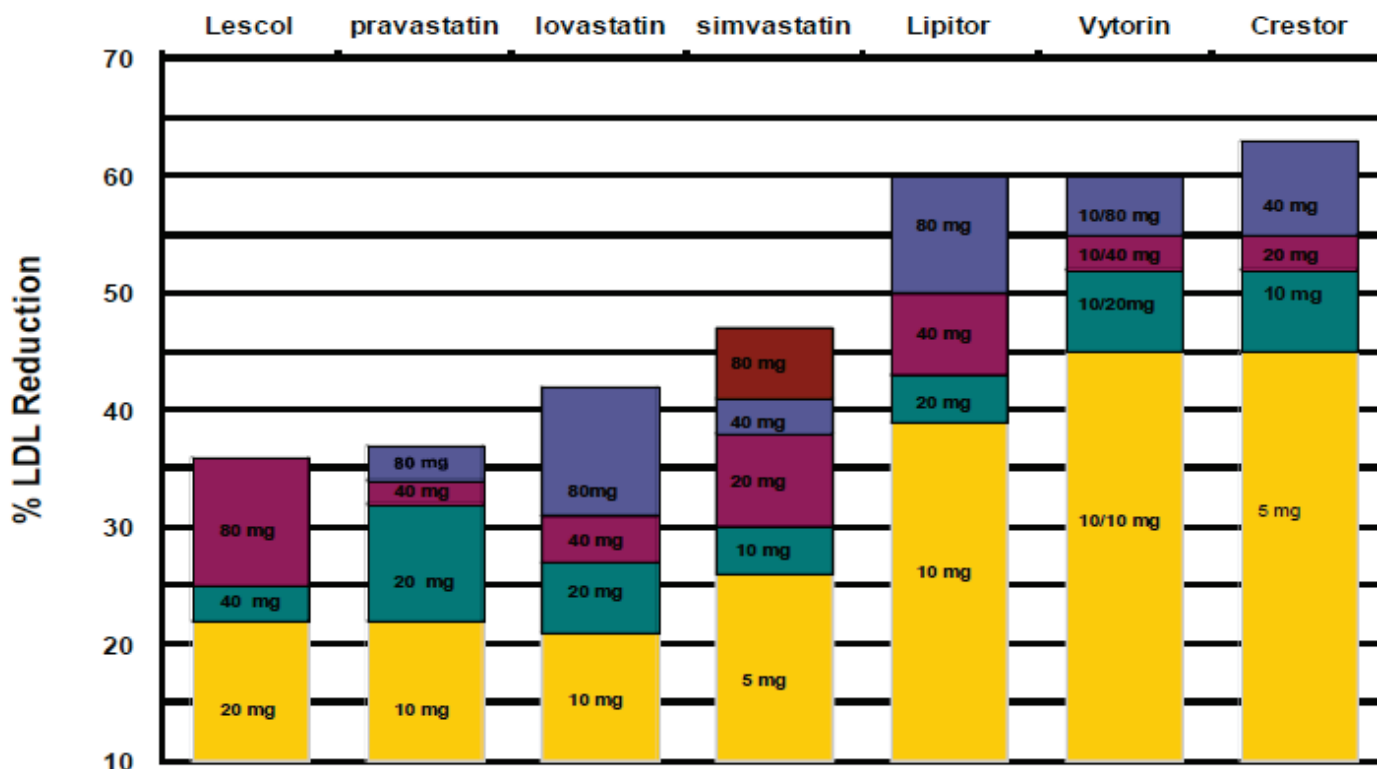
October 1, 2010

## Cholesterol Lowering Drugs – Formulary Change

When it comes to health care, quality is the most important consideration, but cost counts too. Some drugs *cost* more, but don't necessarily *do* more. There are generic cholesterol medications available that have been proven to work as well as more expensive brand drugs

The 2001 National Cholesterol Education Program (NCEP) guidelines and the 2004 update to those guidelines, do not specify a preferred statin to treat high cholesterol because no unique benefit at equipotent LDL-C reducing doses has been proven for one statin over others.

Comparative LDL Reduction (based on manufacturer package inserts):



In order to reduce costs without reducing quality – UCare will be removing Lipitor and Vytorin from its SPP formulary effective 10/1/2010 and removing Lipitor and Vytorin from its MSHO formulary effective 1/1/2011. In addition, Lipitor will be moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier (non-preferred brand) on the UFS formulary effective 1/1/2011.

Generic alternatives for these two drugs are simvastatin, pravastatin, and lovastatin. For those UCare members needing a high potency HMG, Crestor is available on the UCare formulary (Tier 2 drug for UFS).