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**GPhA: New AARP Report Highlights the Critical Role of Generics in  
Containing Health Care Spending**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MARCH 7, 2012)** – The Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) today released the following statement on a new report from the AARP Public Policy Institute, which found that the retail prices of generic drugs have decreased in recent years, even as the prices for brand medications continue to rise.

According to the report, which examined retail prices for the 514 prescription drugs most used by Medicare beneficiaries, the retail prices for brand name and specialty drug products rose by 8.3 and 8.9 percent respectively in 2009. In contrast, retail prices for generic drugs decreased by 7.8 percent.

“The AARP report offers an important reminder of the vital role generic medicines play in reducing costs throughout the health care system, while providing patients access to safe, effective and affordable treatment options,” said Ralph G. Neas, President and CEO of GPhA. “With evidence of the dramatic savings generic drugs can achieve becoming more prevalent every day, we urge lawmakers to ensure that efforts to reduce spending do not in any way dampen the availability and use of lifesaving and life-enhancing generic medicines. The future of the U.S. health care system and the national economy depend on it.”

A copy of the AARP report can be found at [www.aarp.org/rxpricewatch](http://www.aarp.org/rxpricewatch).

*GPhA represents the manufacturers and distributors of finished generic pharmaceuticals, manufacturers and distributors of bulk pharmaceutical chemicals, and suppliers of other goods and services to the generic industry. Generic pharmaceuticals fill 80 percent of the prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. but consume just 25 percent of the total drug spending. Additional information is available at [gphaonline.org](http://gphaonline.org).*

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