

SAVE WITH GENERIC MEDICATIONS



Generic Drugs

Safe. Effective. FDA-Approved

A generic drug is identical (or bioequivalent) to a brand name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use. Although generic drugs are chemically identical to their branded counterparts, they are typically sold at substantial discounts from the branded price.

Generic drugs are reviewed and approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), just as brand drugs are. According to the FDA, compared to its brand counterpart, a generic drug:

- Is chemically the same
- Works the same in the body
- Is as safe and effective
- Meets the same standards set by the FDA

The major difference is that the generic drug often costs much less.

Is There a Generic Equivalent for My Brand-Name Drug?

Ask your healthcare provider if there is a generic equivalent for your brand name drug, or visit www.fda.com for a catalogue of FDA-approved drug products.

Are Generic Drugs as Effective as Brand-Name Drugs?

Yes. FDA requires generic drugs have the same high quality, strength, purity and stability as brand-name drugs.

Not every brand-name drug has a generic drug. When new drugs are first made they have drug patents. Most drug patents are protected for 20 years. The patent, which protects the company that made the drug first, doesn't allow anyone else to make and sell the drug. When the patent expires, other drug companies can start selling a generic version of the drug. But first, they must test the drug and the FDA must approve it.

Creating a drug costs a lot of money. Since generic drug makers do not develop a drug from scratch, the costs to bring the drug to market are less; therefore, generic drugs are usually less expensive than brand-name drugs. However, generic drug makers must show that their product performs in the same way as the brand-name drug.

Be Sure to Check the Value Formulary!

The formulary is a list of drugs covered by your prescription drug plan. You can also call **888.678.7013** to find out if a drug is included in the Value Formulary. As a member, you can log in at www.futurescripts.com to find drugs on the Value Formulary and view and manage your prescription drug plan. The pharmacy tools and services available will help you better understand your prescription drug coverage so you can take full advantage of the cost-savings!

