

Your generic drug
is safe and effective.
And we've got the results to prove it.

Consistent labeling
Rigorous manufacturing standards
Assured quality
Performance evaluation
Purity check
Same drug

When FDA approves your generic drugs, it ensures they are safe and effective. All generic drugs are put through a rigorous, multi-step approval process. From quality and performance to manufacturing and labeling, everything must meet FDA's high standards. We make it tough to become a generic drug in America so it's easy for you to feel confident. Visit www.fda.gov/cder/ or call 1-888-INFO-FDA to learn more. **Generic Drugs: Safe. Effective. FDA Approved.**



Does every brand-name drug have a generic equivalent?

No. Some drugs are protected by patents and only manufactured by one company. However, almost half of the brand-name drugs are available as generics and many can replace your daily medicine to save you money. Be sure to discuss your options with your doctor and/or pharmacist to see if a generic alternative is available for your brand-name prescription.

How can I get generic drugs?

All you have to do is ask your doctor and/or pharmacist if a generic option is available for your brand-name drug(s). Remember to ask your doctor to write prescriptions for generics whenever possible.

Where can I get more information about generic drugs?

To learn more about generic drugs, speak with your doctor or pharmacist or visit the FDA Web site at: www.fda.gov/cder/consumerinfo/generics_q&a.htm.

A Guide to Generic Drugs



Your privacy is important to us. Our employees are trained regarding the appropriate way to handle your private health information.

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What is a generic drug?

A drug that has the exact same chemical make-up as the original brand-name drug. Once the patent or registered trademark has expired on the brand-name drug, a therapeutically generic equivalent can be identically reproduced. It contains the same active ingredients as the original brand counterpart and has been fully tested.

What is the difference between a generic drug and a brand-name drug?

The major differences between a generic drug and the original brand-name drug are the name and the price. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has mandated that all generic drugs meet the same standards as the brand-name drug in active ingredient strength, safety, purity, and performance and are manufactured according to high federal standards. Sometimes the color or shape of the pill will differ from that of the brand-name, but this doesn't affect the standard of quality in any way.

Do generic drugs work as well as brand name drugs?

The FDA requires that all generic drugs work the same as brand-name drugs. They mandate that all generics are pharmaceutically equivalent to the brand name and are administered similarly, whether orally or intravenously. They must also work in the same amount of time as brand-name drugs and have the same side effects and/or risks.

Why choose a generic drug over a brand-name drug?

Choosing a generic drug will save you money and decrease your out-of-pocket expense. Generic drug savings average 30 percent to 80 percent* compared to brand-name drugs, and you won't compromise on quality.

Are generic drugs safe?

Absolutely. Generic drugs are just as safe as brand-name drugs. High federal standards and the FDA mandate that your generic versions are safe and effective.

Why do generic drugs cost less?

The generic drug manufacturer does not have the incurred costs associated with research and development as well as advertising and promotion. Therefore, the generic drug can be offered at a much lower cost to you.

Are generic drugs monitored as carefully as brand-name drugs?

The FDA performs annual inspections of all drug manufacturing facilities to ensure the safety, quality, and effectiveness of the drugs. The FDA makes sure that the generic drug is released into the body the same way as the brand-name medicine and that there are no additional side effects. As a matter of fact, a good portion of generic drugs are manufactured in the same facilities as brand-name drugs and are then sold as generics.

*Research shows that individuals on average can save 30 percent to 80 percent by using generics. Source: Generic Pharmaceutical Association's Web Site: <http://www.gphaonline.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutGenerics/Statistics>