

9 in 10

PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED IN THE U.S.
are for generic medications



ON AVERAGE GENERIC MEDICATIONS COST
80-85%

GENERIC MEDICATIONS

less than the brand-name equivalent



BRAND-NAME MEDICATIONS

KEY FACTS ABOUT GENERIC MEDICATIONS

- FDA requires generic medications to have the same active ingredient, strength, dosage form, and route of administration as the brand-name medication.
- All manufacturing, packaging, and testing sites must pass the same quality standards as those of brand-name medications.
- Generic medicines tend to cost less than their brand-name counterparts because they do not have to repeat clinical studies that were required of the brand-name medicines to demonstrate safety and effectiveness.

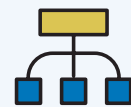
GENERIC AND BRAND-NAME MEDICINES HAVE THE SAME:



ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



SAFETY



EFFECTIVENESS



STRENGTH



QUALITY



BENEFITS

Why are generic medications less expensive?

Generic manufacturers are able to sell their products for lower prices because they are not required to repeat the costly clinical trials of new medications and generally do not pay for costly advertising, marketing, and promotion. In addition, multiple generic companies apply to FDA to approve a generic for the same brand name medications. Multiple generic companies are often approved to market a single product. Competition in the marketplace often results in lower prices.

Why does the brand-name and generic medication look different if they have the same active ingredients?

In the United States, trademark laws do not allow generic medications to look exactly like the brand-name counterpart. Generic medications must have the same active ingredients as the original brand-name product but color, flavor, and other inactive ingredients might be different. These differences do not affect the way the medication works and are reviewed by the FDA.

Why doesn't every brand-name medication have a generic medication equivalent available?

When new medications are first made they have drug patents. Most drug patents are protected for 17 years. The patent protects the company that made the medication first. The patent doesn't allow anyone else to make and sell the medication. When the patent expires, the FDA will review and approve generic versions of the medications made and tested by other companies.

What is the best source for information on generic medications?

Contact your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare worker for information on your generic medication options. For more information, you can also visit the FDA website at: <http://www.fda.gov/genericdrugs>

