

Learn more

Most medical conditions have at least one generic drug treatment option available. And new generics come out every year. Your doctor will know which generics are available and which ones could work best for you. Find out if there is a generic equivalent OR a generic therapeutic alternative that's right for you.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist. Taking a generic drug may give you the same results and cost less.

To find generic drug costs under your pharmacy benefit, go to: **www.MyPrime.com**

To view a free interactive module about generic drugs, log onto: **www.TotalHealthKnowledge.com**

→ username: Generics

→ password: Prime

Find out more about generics at:

www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/default.htm/consumer.htm

www.consumerreports.org/health/bestbuy-drugs.htm

www.gphaonline.org

Generic drugs deliver a better value than brand-name drugs: **they work the same way and cost less**

Compare and save*

Brand
Average retail price of brand-name prescription drug **\$119**

Generic
Average retail price of generic prescription drug **\$18**

Savings = \$101

*Your actual savings will vary based on your health plan benefit



What you need to know about **Generic Drugs**

Reference:

- 1. Generic Pharmaceutical Association. Accessed 14 December 2009. <http://www.gphaonline.org/media/press-releases/2009/generic-pharmaceuticals-saved-734-billion-over-last-decade>.



Prime Therapeutics is an independent company providing pharmacy benefit management services.

Generics deliver

→ Safety

Generic drugs are safe. Brand-name and generic drugs sold in the United States are approved and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The standards are the same. That's safety you can count on.

→ Quality

Generic drugs work the same way. When the FDA approves a generic drug, this means the generic drug is the same as its brand-name counterpart in dosage, performance, safety, strength, quality and usage.

→ Savings

Generic drugs cost less. When the patent expires on a brand-name drug, other companies may begin making and selling the drug as a generic. Generic manufacturers don't have to pay for the costly research and marketing that was done for the brand-name product. Lower prices mean more savings for you.

Safety

Generic drugs are proven safe and effective by the FDA. It's not easy for drugs to be approved by the FDA. Generic manufacturers comply with the same strict standards as brand-name manufacturers. Generic and brand-name drugs sold in the United States are all FDA approved.

FDA-proven safe and effective

FDA reviews active and inactive ingredients used:

<i>brand-name drug</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>generic drug</i>	<i>yes</i>

FDA reviews actual drug product:

<i>brand-name drug</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>generic drug</i>	<i>yes</i>

FDA reviews drug's labeling:

<i>brand-name drug</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>generic drug</i>	<i>yes</i>

FDA periodically inspects manufacturing plants:

<i>brand-name drug</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>generic drug</i>	<i>yes</i>

FDA monitors drug quality after approval:

<i>brand-name drug</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>generic drug</i>	<i>yes</i>

Quality

Tested

The FDA's extensive review ensures a generic drug is the same as its brand-name drug counterpart in:

- Dosage → Performance
- Safety → Strength
- Quality → Usage

There are two ways a generic drug can be prescribed for you:

A **generic equivalent** has the same active ingredients as its brand-name counterpart. Most states have laws that let pharmacists automatically replace a brand-name drug with its generic equivalent.

A **generic therapeutic** alternative is similar in clinical effect to a brand-name drug. Both drugs treat the same condition, but are not exactly the same. You will need to consult with your doctor about a prescription for a generic therapeutic alternative.



Savings

Generic savings

Generics can cost between 30 percent and 80 percent less than brand-name drugs. This is because manufacturers spend years and millions of dollars researching a brand-name drug and bringing it to market. Generic manufacturers do not have these expenses.

Same quality
+ lower cost
.....
= better value

Help control rising health care costs and increasing insurance premiums

Generic drugs save consumers and the health care system more than \$100 billion every year. Choosing generic drugs can be an effective cost-saving measure and an easy way to reduce your out-of-pocket health care expenses. To help encourage generic choices, many health plans set lower copays for generic drugs than for brand-name drugs. With this kind of benefit, if you take a generic drug, that's more money in your pocket.