



Fact Sheet

Generic vs. Brand Name Drugs

Facts

Today, nearly 8 in 10 prescriptions filled in the United States are for generic drugs. Generic drugs are important options that allow greater access to health care by supplying the same medications as brand name versions, but for a fraction of the cost to consumers.

While generic drugs may differ in size, color, or taste, the greatest—and most important—difference is the price. On average, a generic drug is 80-85% lower in cost than its brand name counterpart. This is in large part due to the fact that generic manufacturers do not have to pay for costly clinical trials and do not typically pay for advertising and promotion of their products.

FDA Requirements

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates both generic and brand name drugs in the same way. It is required by law that all generics have the same active ingredients as the name brand version, and that they meet the same standards with respect to identity, strength, purity, and potency.

The FDA also monitors adverse event reports for generic drugs in order to continue evaluating the safety of drugs after their approval. Through ongoing research and clinical trials, as well as investigations of adverse event reporting when appropriate, the FDA remains actively engaged in improving all of the products it regulates.

For more information on FDA approved generic drugs visit: www.FDA.gov

What is Step Therapy?

Step Therapy may be used when you are prescribed a new medication. It requires that a patient try the generic version of a drug before the name brand is prescribed, as a clinical tool to promote the most cost effective and clinically appropriate medications for improved health. For more information on Step Therapy visit: mp.myrxinfo.com

Standards for Generics

Generics must be the same as the brand versions in the following ways:

- Must contain the same active ingredients
- Must come in the same dosage form
- Must be identical in strength
- Must have the same conditions of use
- Must be absorbed at the same rate

Talk to Your Doctor

When you are prescribed a new medication, ask your doctor if a generic version is available. If you have concerns about generics, discuss them with your doctor. Always speak with your medical provider regarding any potential risks associated with prescription medications.