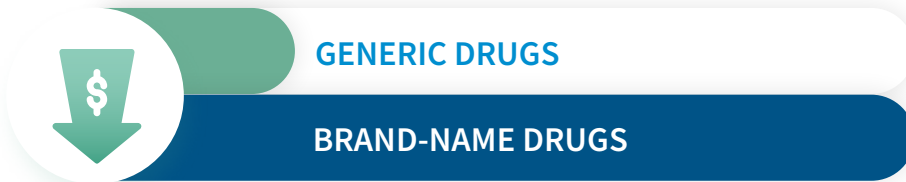


9 in 10

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



ON AVERAGE GENERIC DRUGS COST
80-85%
LESS than the brand-name equivalent



KEY FACTS ABOUT GENERIC DRUGS

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires generic drugs to have the same active ingredients, strength, dosage form, and route of administration as the brand-name drug.
- All manufacturing, packaging, and testing sites must pass the same quality standards as those of brand-name drugs.
- Generic drugs 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 drugs to demonstrate safety and effectiveness.

GENERIC AND
BRAND-NAME DRUGS
HAVE THE SAME:



ACTIVE INGREDIENTS



SAFETY



EFFECTIVENESS



STRENGTH



QUALITY



BENEFITS

Why are generic drugs less expensive?

Generic companies can sell their products for lower prices because they are not required to repeat the costly clinical studies like the brand-name drug. Generally, they do not pay for advertising, marketing, or promotion to save money. Multiple generic companies apply and gain approval by the FDA for the same brand-name drug. With so many generic options in the marketplace, it makes the prices lower.

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

In the United States, trademark laws do not allow generic drugs to look exactly like the brand-name counterpart. Generic drugs 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 drug works and are reviewed by the FDA.

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

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

What is the best source for information on generic drugs?

Contact your doctor, pharmacist, or healthcare provider for more information on your generic drug options. For more information, you can visit the FDA website at <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/buying-using-medicine-safely/generic-drugs> or by scanning the QR code.

