

Top Ten Questions and Answers about Generic Drugs.



1. What is a Generic Drug?

A Generic Drug is an equivalent version of a brand name drug with the same active chemical ingredients and is equivalent in strength, dosage and therapeutic results as the original brand name product.

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

They may have different inactive ingredients such as color, flavor and shape.

3. Are generic drugs safe, and do they work as well as brand name drugs?

Generic drugs, like brand name drugs, must be manufactured according to federal standards. The generic drug must be equivalent to the brand name drug.

4. Does a generic drug look any different than a brand name drug?

Many generic drugs take on a different appearance than its brand name drug such as size, color and shape because the look of branded versions are protected by patents.

5. Who manufactures generic drugs?

Generic drugs are manufactured by the same nationally known and respected pharmaceutical companies as brand name drugs.

6. Why would I want to choose a generic drug over a brand name drug?

Generic drugs can save a significant amount of money without compromising the quality of the drug. This translates to lower out of pocket costs for you.

7. Why do generic drugs cost less?

Generic Drugs cost less because they do not require the same testing animal and clinical testing, research, advertising, and marketing that a brand name drug requires.

8. How much money will generic drugs save me?

Depending on your plan you will pay a lower copayment/coinsurance for generic drugs than for brand name drugs.

9. Do all brand name drugs have generic equivalents?

No. Only about half of the brand drugs have generic equivalents. A generic drug cannot be introduced into the market place until the patent has expired on the brand name drug.

10. How do I get a generic drug?

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if generic drugs are right for you! Your doctor can prescribe the generic drug for you if appropriate. In many cases, your pharmacist can dispense a generic drug, if available, when your doctor prescribes a brand drug as long as your doctor does not indicate “dispense as written”.

What I should ask

my doctor or pharmacist about Generic Drugs?

Questions to ask your doctor.

1. Is there a generic version of my medication?
2. Are generics right for me?
3. Are there any risks (side effects or reactions) if I change medications?

Questions to ask your pharmacist.

1. Is there a generic version of my drug available?
2. Can I substitute my drug with the generic?
3. Will I have different side effects?
4. Does this generic look different than my brand name medicine?
5. Are there any special instructions I should know about before I take this drug?



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