

Understanding Generics

Get the facts! Generic drugs are a proven alternative to name brand drugs, and the cost of treatment will go down without sacrificing quality!

What is a Generic Drug?

A generic drug is a copy of the first product (or innovator drug) made, whose patent has expired. Once a patent has expired, other companies may make the same drug, but they may not use the "brand name". For example, Motrin (ibuprofen) was on the market exclusively while that patent was in effect. Once the patent expired, other drug companies began making a generic copy.

Are Generic Drugs just as good as the Branded Original?

Every drug company is subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of its manufacturing processes. All drugs are

tested for compliance with quality standards. The FDA and other regulatory agencies test to ensure that generic copies match the innovator (brand name) product. More than 200 generic drug companies make generic and brand name drugs. Most generics are made by divisions of major brand name drug companies.

Do doctors and pharmacists like to use generics?

The majority of physicians and pharmacists believe that generics are better than name brands in terms of price, and as good as name brands in terms of effectiveness, quality control, appearance, packaging and patient acceptance.

Why should I use a generic drug?

The cost of a generic drug may range from 30% to 70% less than the name brand drug, yet work just as effectively. By using generics when possible, you will save money without sacrificing quality.

Should I change to generics on all my prescription drugs?

Not all brand name drugs have generics available. You should discuss this issue with your doctor and follow his treatment recommendations. If a generic is available and prescribed by your doctor, only the highest quality will be dispensed. You always have the final choice.

