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# Generic Drug Facts

Generic medicines are the same high quality as their brand-name versions.

Generic drugs go through a rigorous review process to receive FDA approval. The FDA ensures a generic medication provides the same clinical benefit and is as safe and effective as the brand-name medicine that it duplicates.



## **Generic and brand-name medicines have the same:**

- Active Ingredients
- Safety
- Effectiveness
- Strength
- Quality
- Benefits

## **But they can look different.**

Allowable differences in size, shape, and color do not impact how medications work. Generic medicines may look different than the brand-name drugs they duplicate, but they are as safe and effective.

## **And they can cost a lot less money.**

Generic medicines tend to cost less than their brand-name counterparts because they do not have to repeat animal and clinical (human) studies that were required of the brand-name medicines to demonstrate safety and effectiveness. When multiple generic companies market the same product, market competition typically results in prices about 85% less than the brand-name.

**Learn more about generic drugs.** Visit [www.FDA.gov/GenericDrugs](http://www.FDA.gov/GenericDrugs).

Source: FDA, Generic Drug Facts Handout <https://www.fda.gov/media/107601/download>