

# Facts about Generic Drugs



## What are Generic Drugs?

A generic drug is the same as a brand-name drug in:

- Dosage
- Safety
- Strength
- Quality
- The way it works
- The way it is taken
- The way it should be used

## Are Generics as Safe as Brand-Name Drugs?

**Yes.** The FDA says that all drugs must work well and be safe. Generic drugs use the same active ingredients as brand-name drugs and work the same way. So they have the same risks and benefits as the brand-name drugs.

## Are Generics as Strong as Brand-Name Drugs?

**Yes.** FDA requires generic drugs must be as:

- High quality
- Strong
- Pure
- Stable as brand-name drugs

## Are Brand-Name Drugs Made in Better Factories Than Generics?

**No.** All factories must meet the same high standards. If the factories do not meet certain standards, the FDA won't allow them to make drugs.

## Why Are Generic Drugs Less Expensive?

Creating a drug costs lots of money. Since generic drug makers do not develop a drug from scratch, the costs to bring the drug to market are less. But they must show that their product performs in the same way as the brand-name drug. All generic drugs are approved by FDA.

## What is the Best Source of Information about Generic Drugs?

Contact your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare worker for information on your generic drugs. For more information, you can also visit the FDA website at: <http://www.fda.gov/cder> and click on Consumer Education.

## If Brand-Name and Generic Drugs Have the Same Active Ingredients, Why Do They Look Different?


In the United States, trademark laws do not allow generic drugs to look exactly like the brand-name drugs. However, the generic drug must have the same active ingredients. Colors, flavors, and certain other parts may be different. But these things don't affect the way the drug works and they are looked at by the FDA.

## Do Generic Drugs Take Longer to Work?

**No.** Generic drugs work in the same way and in the same amount of time as brand-name drugs.

## Does Every Brand-Name Drug Have A Generic?

**No.** 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, other drug companies can start selling the generic version of the drug. But, first, they must test the drug and the FDA must approve it.

>  **Please contact your healthcare professional to determine if a generic drug is right for you**

Source: US Dept of Health and Human Service

