



## Facts from the FDA

- Today, nearly **8 in 10 prescriptions filled in the U.S. are for generic drugs**. All generic drugs are approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and must be equivalent to the brand-name drug.
- The FDA requires generic drugs to have the **same active ingredient, strength, dosage** form and route of administration as the brand-name drug.
- The generic manufacturer must prove its drug is the **same (bioequivalent) as the brand-name drug**.
- All manufacturing, packaging and testing sites must pass the **same quality standards** as those of brand-name drugs.
- Many generic drugs are made in the **same manufacturing plants** as the brand-name drugs.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou>



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What's the difference between brand-name and generic drugs?

A. A brand-name drug is protected by a 17-year patent that limits production to one manufacturer. When the patent expires, other companies may manufacture a "generic" version of the drug. The generic is just like the brand-name drug and follows the same FDA safety rules.

The generic is essentially a chemical copy of the brand-name drug. The name, color or shape may be different, but the active ingredients are the same. Examples of generic medications are simvastatin, the generic equivalent of Zocor®, or omeprazole, the generic for Prilosec®.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if using generics is right for you.

### Q. If I have additional questions who can I contact?

A. You can call the Patient Care Contact Center at 866.272.6695 or the number on your member ID card any time of day, seven days a week. Your call will be answered quickly by knowledgeable representatives. If you need to speak with a pharmacist, just ask. A pharmacist is always available through the Contact Center or by signing in at Express-Scripts.com.



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## Your Guide to Generics

» Lower your costs when you choose generic medications.



## Generics offer safety and savings

Making the use of prescription medication safer and more affordable for you is a priority of Express Scripts. One of the ways we do this is by offering generic drugs. Generics have a distinct advantage over newer medications because by the time they come to market, they've already been available as brand-name drugs for an average of 17 years – quite long enough to establish a solid safety record.

Consequently, there are few surprises with generics. Doctors know how generics should be prescribed and monitored, so you can take them with confidence.

**A number of programs and online tools at [Express-Scripts.com](https://www.express-scripts.com) can help you learn more about generic drugs.**

Generic drugs are the clinical equivalents of their brand-name counterparts, containing the same active ingredients and working in the same way.

The only significant difference is the cost, which averages about 45% less than the brand-name drug. When you choose generics your copayment is lower. Your plan sponsor also saves, which is a plus as healthcare costs continue to rise. Generic drugs can save a prescription-drug plan and its members an average of \$30 per prescription.

## Your choices affect your wallet

Your copayment depends on what medication you and your doctor decide is best for your specific needs.

There can be significant differences between the copayments of generics and brand-name drugs, as illustrated:

### Your Copayment Structure

Generic drugs	\$
Preferred brand-name drugs	\$\$
Nonpreferred brand-name drug	\$\$\$

**Generic drugs typically cost about half as much as preferred brand-name drugs. Nonpreferred brand-name drugs have the highest copayment – and the most impact on your wallet.**

The good news is that each year more prescription brand-name drugs lose patent protection and become eligible for generic competition. As a result, prices continue to drop for increasing numbers of tried-and-true prescription drugs.

## You have more ways to save

If you're taking a brand-name drug for which no generic is available, **you may want to talk with your doctor about a therapeutic substitution** – a medication that isn't chemically equivalent to the one you're taking but that produces the same result.

Of course, any decision to change medications should be made only after speaking with your doctor or health specialist. And you should always speak to a health specialist or pharmacist about any side effects or possible drug interactions when taking a new medication.

**Preferred brand-name drug alternatives are also money-saving options.** These medications are therapeutically the same as non-preferred brand-name drugs, but are usually less expensive.

Brand-name drugs on the preferred list have been evaluated for safety by an independent review team of doctors and pharmacists. Brands that are more cost-effective are put on the preferred list. You can always check to see if a medication is on your plan's preferred drug list when you sign in to [Express-Scripts.com](https://www.express-scripts.com) or call the number on your member ID card.