

CIGNA HealthCare

Generic Medications

The Right Choice



According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), generic drugs approved by the FDA are biologically and therapeutically equivalent (i.e., perform the same way in the body) to their brand-name counterparts, and people can use them with confidence.

Quality You Can Count On:

Generic drugs marketed in the U.S. may differ from their brand-name counterparts in such things as shape, packaging, fillers (including colors, flavors, preservatives), expiration time, and, within certain limits, labeling. However, the quality standards for FDA approval of drugs sold in the U.S. are the same for both generic and brand-name drugs.

The FDA states that any generic drug marketed in the U.S. must:

- contain the same active ingredients as the brand-name product;
- be identical in strength, dosage form and process for administration;
- demonstrate that it is therapeutically equivalent to the brand-name drug;
- have the same indications, dosing recommendations and other labeling instructions as the brand-name drug (unless protected by patent or exclusivity); and
- meet the same batch-to-batch requirements for identity, strength, purity and quality, and be manufactured under the same strict FDA standards required for brand-name products.

Real Savings, Real Value:

According to the Congressional Budget Office of the FDA generic drugs save consumers an estimated \$8 to \$10 billion a year at retail pharmacies. The consistent use of generic medications can provide substantial savings for CIGNA HealthCare members in two ways: they can reduce the member's out-of-pocket costs; and they can help keep premiums down by reducing the overall cost of health benefits. Most important, generics can save money while maintaining the same standards of quality and patient care.

Is There a Generic For You?

Below are some examples of common brand-name drugs along with their generic equivalents. Please talk to your doctor to see if generic drugs are right for you.

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME	USED FOR TREATING
Ativan®	lorazepam	Anxiety
Darvocet-N-100®	propoxyphene/apap	Pain
Mevacor®	lovastatin	High Cholesterol
Pepcid®	famotidine	Excess Stomach Acid
Prinivil®/Zestril®	lisinopril	High Blood Pressure
Prozac®	fluoxetine	Depression
Ritalin®	methylphenidate	ADD/ADHD
Tenormin®	atenolol	High Blood Pressure