

Are generic drugs as good as brand-name drugs?



Generic drugs are copies of brand-name drugs. They are just as safe, are equal in quality, and much lower in cost than brand-name drugs.

CHOOSING GENERIC DRUGS means you can keep money in your pocket where it belongs while helping control the cost of your extended health plan. Next time you get a prescription, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the generic equivalent.

 **Generics are SAFE.** Health Canada’s approval process for generic drug manufacturing is as strict as the process for brand-name drugs. In Canada, both brand-name and generic drug manufacturers follow the same testing and quality control standards. You can be assured that generic drugs are just as effective and safe as brand-name drugs.

 **Generics are equal in QUALITY.** Generic drugs provide the same quality as their brand-name counterparts. All ingredients in generic drugs must be approved by Health Canada and include the same active ingredient, provide the same strength per dosage, and be administered the same way (oral, topical or injection).

 **Generics cost LESS.** A generic prescription is about 25% of the price of the brand-name equivalent in British Columbia. Generic drug manufacturers do not need to invest as much money on research, development, testing

and approval processes as brand-name drug manufacturers. Also, they don’t spend millions of dollars on advertising.

In 2019, two-thirds of all prescriptions filled in Canada were generic drugs but they only accounted for 19.1 percent of the \$30.7 billion that Canadians spent on prescription drugs.

By buying generics, you can save your own hard earned dollars and help reduce costs to your health care plan. In the example below, if you switched to the generic drug, you would save \$26.82 for a three month supply. That’s money in your pocket!



*Drug cost is based on a 3 month supply.