

Generic Medications

You may think that lower costs means lower quality, but generic drugs are just as safe and effective as brand-name drug products. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensures a rigorous review of all drugs. Generic medications have the same quality, safety and strength as brand name medications, but for an average brand-name drug that costs \$72, the generic version costs about \$17. FDA requirements for Generic Drugs include:

- Generic drugs must have the same active ingredients and strength as the brand-name product
- Generic drugs must have the same dosage form (tablets, liquids, etc) and be administered in the same way
- Generic drug manufacturers must show that the active ingredients are delivered into the patient's bloodstream in the same amount of time as the brand-name drug
- Generic drug manufacturers must fully document the generic drug's chemistry, manufacturing steps, and quality control measures
- FDA inspections ensure that the raw materials and finished products meet all required specifications and standards for drug purity