



## Did You Know?

Generic equivalents are often up to 80% less than their name brand counterparts. It is estimated that generics account for two-thirds of all prescriptions filled in the US.

Source: <http://osteoarthritis.about.com/b/2008/09/25/cost-saving-aspect-of-generic-drugs-often-overlooked.htm>

## Can I trust generics?

Generics are every bit as trustworthy as their brand-name counterparts. They must meet strict federal guidelines. They are also rigorously supervised by the FDA to ensure that they meet the highest standards: namely that they are safe and they work. It may surprise you to know that many of the same companies who make brand-name drugs also manufacture the generics.



### Top 10 Generic Drugs Dispensed at Retail Pharmacies Nationwide\*

Average Cost - \$31.46  
NOW - many \$4 or less

1	Lisinopril	Generic	Antihypertensives
2	Simvastatin	Generic	Antihyperlipidemics
3	Trazodone Hcl	Generic	Antidepressants
4	Hydrochlorothiazide	Generic	Diuretics
5	Metoprolol Succinate	Generic	Beta Blockers
6	Atenolol	Generic	Beta Blockers
7	Amlodipine Besylate	Generic	Calcium Channel Blockers
8	Sertraline Hcl	Generic	Antidepressants
9	Metoprolol Tartrate	Generic	Beta Blockers
10	Fexofenadine Hcl	Generic	Antihistamines

\* June 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009

## Summary

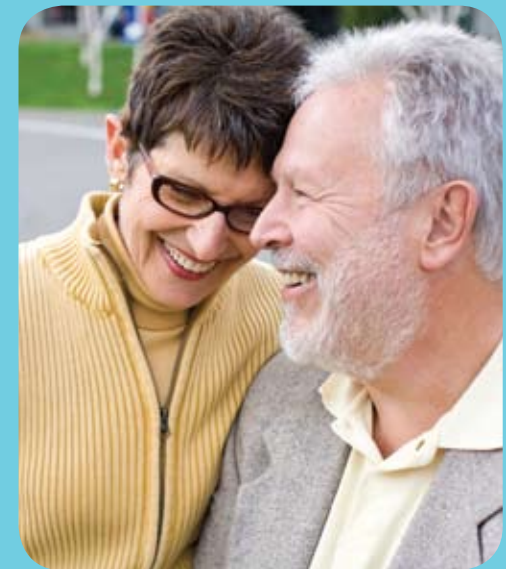
Many name-brand drugs have lower priced alternatives that are available. These are called generic equivalents, and they could save you money. Generics are very safe and effective, since they are required by the FDA to be the same in terms of active ingredients and effectiveness. To learn more, ask your physician or pharmacist. Check out what the federal government has to say at [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) or visit [medtipster.com](http://medtipster.com).



Is your copay \$4 or less?

# Generic Drugs

what you need to know



# Compelling Numbers

According to a study by IMS health, over the past 10 years, Americans have saved **\$734 billion** through the use of generic drugs.

Source: <http://www.healthpopuli.com/2009/05/generic-drugs-have-saved-734-billion-to.html>

## Exactly what is a generic drug?

A generic drug is a lower-priced version of a name-brand drug that can be produced once the patent from the original pharmaceutical company expires. Generic equivalents are the same as the brand name drug in terms of active ingredients and therapeutic effectiveness. All generics are tested and approved by the FDA.

## Is there any way that generics are different?

Other than the price, the only differences are minor and essentially inconsequential. Generics are required by law to look different than the original name-brand drug, so generics often come in a different color or size, and in less expensive packaging. You'll find that generics do not have catchy names. Their names are their exact chemical name.



## What about effectiveness?

The FDA requires that all generics be equal to the brand name drug in terms of effectiveness and chemical composition. They also must be dispensed in the same form, whether it's oral or through IV. In addition, generics are required to

work the same way in the body: they take the same amount of time to take effect and carry the exact same risk factors and side effects.

## Can I trust generics?

Generics are every bit as trustworthy as their brand-name counterparts. They must meet strict federal guidelines. They are also rigorously supervised by the FDA to ensure that they meet the highest standards: namely that they are safe and they work. The FDA inspects the drug companies' production facilities every year, doing thorough quality checks to make sure that generics are safe, pure and effective. It may surprise you to know that many of the same companies who make brand-name drugs also manufacture the generics.

## Why not just stick with the brand-name drug?

Plain and simple, generics are less expensive. They typically cost anywhere from 30-60% less than name brand drugs for the same results. With healthcare costs being what they are, generic drugs are an easy way for you to save a significant amount of money.

## Where can I get generics?

You get generics in the exact same place that you get your brand-name prescriptions: at your local pharmacy. Visit [medtipster.com](http://medtipster.com) for more info.

## Do I need a prescription?

Some are available over the counter, and some require prescriptions. If the name-brand drug requires a prescription, then its generic equivalent also will. Unless the doctor has written "dispense as written," a generic can be substituted by the pharmacist. Ask your doctor to prescribe a generic if it is available.

## Anything else I need to know?

If your doctor recommends a drug without a generic equivalent, there are often other similar

drugs that can be substituted and that do have generic equivalents. For example, if your doctor prescribes Crestor for high cholesterol, there is no generic equivalent for that. But it is possible that Zocor could be prescribed instead, and it does have a generic equivalent that can save you money. These similar drugs are called therapeutic alternatives. Ask for them, or go to [medtipster.com](http://medtipster.com) to find them.

## Is there always a generic equivalent for brand name drugs?

Over two-thirds of all name-brand drugs are available as generics. The others are still under patent protection. Often there is more than one drug available to treat a condition, so be sure to ask your physician if there is a generic option for you, particularly in the case of any medications that you take regularly.



## What Is Medtipster?

Medtipster.com allows consumers to search online for generic drugs that are available at ultra-low prices. The Medtipster search engine is free to consumers and easy to use: the participants just enter the drug name, the dosage and their zip code. Medtipster will do the rest, searching through its database of thousands of generic drugs at over 60,000 pharmacies for the best price on that drug at the nearest location.

