

Preferred brand-name drugs can also cost less.

If your doctor thinks generics aren't right for you, or they aren't available, ask about a preferred brand-name drug. You might have higher copayments than with generics, but you'll still pay less than you would for nonpreferred, brand-name drugs.

For questions about generics, or to see what medicines are preferred by your plan, log in to **express-scripts.com** or call the number on your member ID card. We're glad to help.

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References:

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/UnderstandingGenericDrugs/ucm305896.htm>
2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
<http://www.fda.gov/drugs/resourcesforyou/consumers/buyingusingmedicinesafely/understandinggenericdrugs/ucm167991.htm>

Your Guide to Generics

Pay less for the same health benefits.





Proven safety and savings

Your medicine should be affordable. That's why FDA-approved **generic drugs are a great option for your treatment**. They're safe, effective alternatives to brand-name drugs – and typically cost a lot less.

FDA-approved generic drugs:

- **Cost about 80% to 85% less than expensive brand-name drugs¹**
- Have the same active ingredients as brand-name alternatives
- Work just like brand-name medicines
- Have the same quality, strength and purity standards as non-generics

Nearly **80% of prescriptions filled in the U.S. are generic.**² Generic drugs also have a big advantage over new medicines. By the time a generic medicine becomes available, it's already been prescribed as a brand-name drug for an average of 17 years – so you know it's safe and effective.

A healthy difference

You and your doctor still make the decisions about your medicine. But keep in mind that you could save a lot by switching to generics. Here's what you typically pay under your plan:

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

Ask your doctor about generics

Each year, more brand-name drugs lose patent protection. This lets us make, and prescribe, less expensive generic versions using the same active ingredients. Talk with your doctor to see if a generic drug would help you save money during your treatment. If one isn't available, **ask your doctor about other preferred alternatives** – which are medicines with different ingredients that are used to treat your condition.