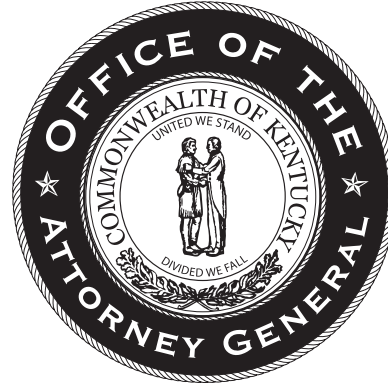


Tips For You And Your Medicine

- Choose your pharmacist with the same care as you would your physician. Choose one who is available to you and who will take the time to answer your questions regarding your prescription.
- Check to see if your pharmacist maintains a profile on your medicine history. This is a valuable tool for your pharmacist to warn you of drug interactions from prescriptions you are already taking. For this reason, it is wise to do business with one pharmacist for all of your prescription needs.
- Ask what the cost is before your prescription is filled.
- Read the name on the label to make sure you are getting your prescription and not another person's by mistake.
- Ask the pharmacist to tell you the purpose of the medicine and how to take it so to avoid errors and clarify any misunderstandings you may have.
- Always read the label and package insert instructions carefully. Ask your pharmacist about things you do not understand.
- Ask your pharmacist about interactions with food, drugs, tobacco, and alcohol while taking your prescribed medication and what precautions you should take.
- Always store your prescription and other drugs out of the reach of children.
- Do not store your prescription or other drugs in misnamed containers.



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1024 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 696-5389**

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Generic Drugs

SUBSTITUTE AND SAVE



The Generic Drug Law

The Generic Drug Law was passed to ensure that you receive the savings from using a lower cost generic drug selected by a pharmacist in place of the brand name drug prescribed. Your pharmacist is required to make this selection when he or she has a lower cost generic drug in stock unless you or your doctor prefer a brand name and choose not to have a substitution. By using generic drugs, your savings can be substantial.

WHAT IS A BRAND NAME DRUG?

A brand name drug is one that carries a trademark that only one company can use. Every brand name drug also has an official generic name which is given to it by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

WHAT IS A GENERIC DRUG?

A generic drug is one that is sold under its chemical or official name rather than an advertised brand name.

DO GENERIC DRUGS COST LESS?

Almost always. Generic drugs are not heavily advertised as are brand name drugs. Manufacturers can sell at lower prices because they do little or no advertising and provide no costly samples, packaging or other frills.

ARE GENERIC DRUGS SAFE?

Yes. All drugs, whether sold under their brand name or generic name, must meet the Drug Administration for safety, strength, purity and effectiveness. Your pharmacist can sell only generic drugs that are therapeutically equivalent to brand name drugs. That means that the drug must have the same active ingredient, strength, quantity and dosage as the brand name drug your doctor listed on the prescription.

AM I GETTING WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED?

Yes. The drugs are approved by the FDA for safety and effectiveness and can be expected to behave in the same way in the body as the brand name. Since the drugs are the same, the only difference is usually the price.

DO BRAND NAME DRUGS AND GENERIC DRUGS LOOK ALIKE?

Not necessarily. They may be packaged differently, may not be the same color, or may not taste the same.

How Can I Benefit From The Generic Drug Law?

- ✓ Ask your physician to write the prescription for a generic product. In some instances, your physician may not wish to have a generic selection made. If that is the case, he or she must write "Do Not Substitute" on the prescription blank. You also have the right to ask that a substitution not be made. Your pharmacist is prohibited from substituting a generic product when your physician has specified "Do Not Substitute" on the prescription blank.
- ✓ Ask your pharmacist for the lowest cost generic drug in stock.
- ✓ You should realize that not all brand name drugs have generic equivalents because the brand name drugs may be protected by patent for a period of time and no substitution can be made.