

Save money by choosing quality, cost-effective alternatives to brand medications

Gravie partners with Magellan Rx Management to provide pharmacy benefits through your health plan.

Selecting generic medications is a great way to help control your health care costs without sacrificing safety and effectiveness. The following are answers to commonly asked questions about generic drugs.

What are generic drugs?

Generic drugs are copies of brand-name drugs and are the same as those brand-name drugs in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics, and intended use.

Although generic drugs are chemically identical to their branded counterparts, they are typically sold at substantial discounts.

Are generic drugs as effective as brand-name drugs?

Yes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires generic drugs have the same high quality, strength, purity, and stability as brand-name drugs.

What if I prefer to take a brand-name drug?

To encourage the use of generic drugs, your plan may require that you pay the difference in cost if you choose to take a brand-name prescription medication when a generic version of the same drug is available.

- If your doctor advises you to take the brand-name drug, then you may not have to pay the difference, depending on your plan.
- If you choose a brand-name drug without your doctor's consent, you must pay the difference between the brand and generic drug.
- If there is no generic equivalent, you may receive the brand drug with no penalty.

Do generics work just as well as brand-name drugs?

A study evaluated the results of 38 published clinical trials that compared cardiovascular generic drugs to their brand-name counterparts. There was no evidence that brand-name heart drugs worked any better than generic heart drugs.

What standards do generic drugs have to meet?

To gain FDA approval, a generic drug must:

- Contain the same active ingredients as the innovator drug (inactive ingredients may vary)
- Be identical in strength, dosage form, and route of administration
- Have the same use indications
- Be bioequivalent
- Meet the same batch requirements for identity, strength, purity, and quality
- Be manufactured under the same strict standards of FDA's good manufacturing practice regulations required for innovator products

Is there a generic equivalent for my brand-name drug?

To find out if there is a generic equivalent for your brand-name drug, please visit magellanrx.com.