



**GENERIC DRUGS  
SAME QUALITY  
BETTER PRICE**



CANADIAN GENERIC PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

## GENERIC DRUGS VERSUS BRAND-NAME - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

### QUALITY

Health Canada reviews and approves **all drugs** (brand-name and generic) before they can be sold in Canada.

Health Canada mandates that a generic drug is designed to work the **same way** in the body as the original brand-name drug.

Further, Health Canada requires that both brand-name and generic drug companies follow the **same rules** for the manufacturing process and for ensuring the quality of their ingredients.

### INGREDIENTS

Health Canada mandates that generic drugs have the **same active ingredient** (the chemical that makes the drug work) and that they work the **same way** in the body as the brand-name drug.

Generic drugs must also have the **same amount** of active ingredient in the prescription.

Health Canada even regulates the non-medicinal ingredients, such as fillers and preservatives, for both brand-name and generic drugs and they are subject to the **same approval** process.

### RESULTS

When a generic drug is approved by Health Canada that means the medicine is as safe and as effective as the original brand-name drug and they will work **the same way**.

### THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS PRICE

The only difference between a generic and a brand-name drug is the price. Generic drugs are used to **fill more than 63%** of all prescriptions in Canada, but they account for **only 24%** of the \$22.1-billion dollars Canadians spend annually on prescription drugs.



Generic Prescription



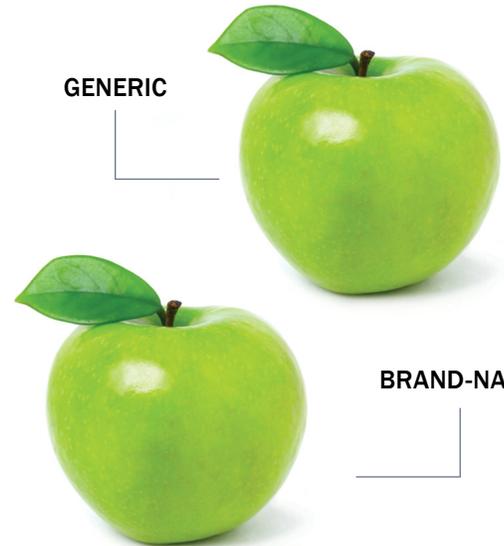
Brand-name Prescription

**For more information** regarding the quality, safety and efficacy of generic drugs, please visit the **Canadian Agency for Drug Technologies in Health (CADTH)** website at the following link:

[www.cadth.ca/en/resources/generics](http://www.cadth.ca/en/resources/generics)

CADTH is an independent agency funded by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments.

GENERIC



BRAND-NAME

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About two-thirds of all prescriptions in Canada are filled with generic drugs.

**1 MILLION EVERYDAY**

Everyday in Canada, approximately **one-million prescriptions** are filled using generic drugs.

#### **WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT COST? I'M COVERED BY MY DRUG PLAN.**

It is important to remember that **you and your employer pay for the costs** of your prescription drug benefits. Your employer is not required to offer you a health benefit plan. They do so in order to attract and retain the best employees and to keep **you and your family healthy** and at work. Rising drug costs are putting pressure on all employers' ability to continue to offer these important drug benefit programs.

Generic drugs **cost much less** than brand-name drugs and will lead to an affordable and sustainable drug plan for you and your family. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if there is a generic equivalent available for your prescription needs.