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Made in Canada Generic Drugs... For Your Good Health

Generic Drugs are:

- High-quality medicines
- Much lower in price than brand-name drugs
- Used to fill approximately 40% of all prescriptions in Canada
- Saving Canadians approximately \$1.5 billion annually, and that figure is growing every year

For the Health of all Canadians

Generic drug manufacturers have been helping save money for Canada's health-care system for nearly 50 years by providing high-quality medicines at substantial cost savings. Prescription drugs are the fastest-rising cost in Canadian health care and greater use of generic drugs can save money so that more resources can be dedicated to preserving, or even enhancing, other aspects of Canada's health-care system such as hospitals, nurses, medical training facilities and new technologies.



Responsible Drug Use


Medicines work better when used wisely

- Listen to what your doctor and pharmacist say about taking your prescription and non-prescription drugs.
- Do not expect to receive a prescription every time you visit your doctor. There are often simpler and less-expensive ways of treating an illness.
- Use medicine carefully. Many drugs do not mix with alcohol or other drugs. Ask your pharmacist.
- Follow the directions on the label. Misuse of medication is harmful and can even be fatal.
- Keep medicines out of the reach of children.
- Do not share your prescription drugs with others. One person's cure may be another's poison!
- Store in a cool, dry area. Your bathroom's medicine cabinet is not always the best choice for drug storage.



Generic Drugs:

same quality, lower prices



What's the difference between a brand-name and a generic drug?

There are no differences to quality, purity, effectiveness and safety between generic drugs and higher-priced brand-name drugs. All drugs sold in Canada must be approved by the federal Therapeutic Products Directorate of Health Canada. Each product must also meet the strict regulations established by The Food and Drug Act, and both generics and brand-name drugs are subjected to the same rigorous standards.


It's in the price that you'll see a big difference. Generic drugs cost much less.

What about the ingredients?

The active ingredient in a generic drug and branded drug must meet the same scientific norms and standards set by the Health Protection Branch. The excipients – or fillers – used in generic and branded medicines come from a limited range of available products and, in many cases, come from the same supplier.

Will the generic drug work as well as the brand-name drug?

The generic drug has a different name and may look a little different, but it works the same as the brand-name drug you have been using. When manufacturers apply to sell a generic equivalent of a brand-name drug, they must prove to Health Canada that the product is as safe and effective as the branded version. The manufacturer must also prove to the provincial ministries of health that the active ingredients in the medicine are as pure, dissolve at the same rate, and are absorbed in the same manner as the original product.



Who do I ask about getting low-cost generic drugs?

Ask your doctor or pharmacist. You may already be receiving a generic drug. If not, a generic equivalent of the drug prescribed by your doctor may not yet be available. For more information, please visit our Website at www.canadiangenerics.ca

Why should I care how much drugs cost? I'm covered by a drug plan!

In Canada, health care costs are shared by everybody. The cost of prescriptions may be covered through your taxes or by health benefit premiums at work, but everyone pays for high-priced drugs, either through cuts to our health-care system, higher taxes, or increased premiums. Generic drugs help to reduce the costs for taxpayers and employers alike. The health-care system in Canada is in crisis because there isn't enough money available to fund the services which Canadians need. To avoid cuts to our treasured system of health care, all Canadians need to be aware of the impact their medication costs are having on the entire health-care system.



Who makes Canada's generic drugs?

We are dynamic companies who research, develop and manufacture drugs in Canada. We employ sophisticated scientific and advanced manufacturing technology to develop products, which include generic pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, innovative medicines, non-prescription and private-label medications.

Quality

There is only one standard for drug quality in Canada. Our products are of the same quality and efficacy as branded drugs. We have sophisticated laboratories and state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities.

Availability and Affordability

Generic drugs are carried in retail pharmacies in Canada. Canadian hospitals and all provincial drug plans use them to help control skyrocketing drug costs. Approximately 40% of all prescriptions in Canada are filled with generic drugs, but a generic equivalent is not always available for every brand-name drug. Under the Canadian Patent Act, brand-name companies have a lengthy period of patent protection to sell their products without generic competition. This means higher prices, because there is no competition during the monopoly period.

