

# FOR THE HEALTH OF ALL CANADIANS

Generic drug manufacturers have helped save money for Canada's health-care system for more than 50 years by providing high-quality, effective medicines at substantial savings. Prescription drugs are one of the fastest growing costs in Canadian health care. The greater use of generic drugs can save money so more resources can be dedicated to preserving, or enhancing other aspects of Canada's health-care system, including hospitals, nursing, medical training facilities and new technologies.



## GENERIC DRUGS... FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH

- HIGH-QUALITY EFFECTIVE MEDICINES
- USED TO FILL MORE THAN HALF OF ALL PRESCRIPTIONS IN CANADA
- MUCH LOWER PRICE THAN BRAND-NAME DRUGS
- SAVING CANADIANS APPROXIMATELY \$3 BILLION ANNUALLY, AND THAT FIGURE IS GROWING EVERY YEAR

This consumer information booklet is sponsored by the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) which is the national association representing manufacturers and distributors of finished generic pharmaceutical products, manufacturers and distributors of active pharmaceutical ingredients and suppliers of other goods and services to the industry.

## 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. Don't expect to receive a prescription every time you visit your doctor. Often there are simpler and less expensive ways to treat an illness.
- Use medicines carefully. Many drugs do not mix with alcohol or other drugs. Ask your pharmacist.
- Follow the directions on the label. Misuse of medications can be harmful or even 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 medicine cabinet may not always be the best choice for drug storage.



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# GENERIC DRUGS

## SAME QUALITY BETTER PRICE



## TO FIND OUT MORE

[www.canadiangenerics.ca](http://www.canadiangenerics.ca)

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

**...Between a brand-name drug and a generic drug?** There is no difference in terms of quality, purity, effectiveness and safety between generic drugs and higher priced brand-name drugs. All prescription drugs that are sold in Canada are reviewed and approved by the same federal agency, the *Therapeutic Products Directorate* of Health Canada. Every product must meet the strict regulations that are established by the *Food and Drugs Act*. Both the generic drug and the brand-name drug are subjected to **exactly** the same rigorous standards.

**...What about the ingredients?** The active ingredient in a generic drug and a brand-name drug must meet the same scientific norms and standards set by Canada's Health Products and Food Branch. The fillers that are used in generic and brand-name 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?** Even though a generic drug has a different name and might look different it works the same as the brand-name drug you have been using. When a generic drug is approved by Health Canada, it means the product is as safe and as effective; and has been proven to work the same way as the branded version.

**...Who do I ask about getting low-cost generic drugs?** You can ask your doctor or pharmacist. You may already be receiving a generic drug. For more information on what drugs are available and how generic drugs are developed and approved please visit our website:

[www.canadiangenerics.ca](http://www.canadiangenerics.ca)

## Why should I care how much my drugs cost?...I'm covered by my drug plan.

In Canada health-care costs are shared by everyone. The cost of prescriptions may be covered through your taxes or by the premiums paid at work. In the end everyone pays for higher-priced drugs, either through higher taxes, increased health benefit premiums, or through cuts to our health-care system. We all need to be aware of the impact of medication costs on the entire health-care system.

## Availability and Affordability

Generic drugs are available in retail pharmacies across Canada. Canadian hospitals and all provincial drug plans use them to help control skyrocketing drug costs. More than half 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 drug companies have a lengthy period of patent protection to sell their products.

**THE DIFFERENCE IS PRICE:  
GENERIC DRUGS COST LESS.**