

Understanding Generic Medicine



What is generic medicine?

- A generic medicine is the same as the brand name version.

What is the difference between generic medicines and brand name medicines?

- Generics cost much less.
- Generics have the same active ingredients, work the same way and meet the same safety requirements as brand name medicines.

Are generic medicines safe?

- Yes. Generics must meet all the same safety standards as brand name medicines.
- Generics must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be sold in the United States.

Do generic medicines work?

- Yes. Generic medicines work just as well as brand name medicines.

Do generic medicines cost less?

- Yes. Generics usually cost about 80% less than brand name medicines.

How does a brand medicine become available as a generic?

- A drug company does years of research to create a new medicine.
- Once approved by the FDA, only that drug company can sell the medicine.
- After a specified amount of time, the drug company no longer has exclusive rights to sell the medicine.
- This allows other companies to make their own generic version of the medicine.

Can I call the Poison Control Center if I have questions about generic medicines?

- Yes. You can call anytime with questions about taking any type of medicine.

**Call the New York City Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222
any time to ask questions about your medicines.**

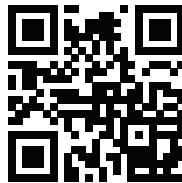
New York City Poison Control Center



**The New York City Poison Control Center is here
to help you with medicine safety.**

**Call us anytime at 1-800-222-1222 or 212-POISONS (212-764-7667)
Visit our website at nyc.gov/health**

- **Your Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**
- **Pharmacists and nurses certified in poison information are there to give advice.**
- **All calls are free and confidential.**
- **Translation services are provided.**
- **Ask for free brochures, telephone stickers and magnets.**



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