



WHY CHOOSE GENERICS OVER BRANDS?

WHAT IS A GENERIC DRUG? A generic drug is an exact chemical copy of a brand name drug whose patent has expired. Once a patent has expired, other drug companies may make the same drug, but they may not use the “brand name.” For example, Motrin (ibuprofen) was on the market exclusively while the patent was in effect. Once the patent expired, other drug companies began making a generic copy (ibuprofen).

ARE GENERIC DRUGS JUST AS GOOD AS THE BRANDED ORIGINAL? Every drug company is subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of its manufacturing processes. All drugs are tested for compliance with quality standards. The FDA and other regulatory agencies test to insure that generic copies match the brand name product. More than 200 generic drug companies make generic and brand name drugs. Most generics are made by divisions of major brand name drug companies.

DO DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS LIKE TO USE GENERICS? The vast majority of physicians and pharmacists know that generics are better than name brands in terms of price and as good as name brands in terms of effectiveness, quality control, appearance, packaging, and patient acceptance.

WHY SHOULD I USE A GENERIC DRUG? The cost of a generic drug generally ranges from 30% to 70% less than the name brand drug, yet works just as effectively. By using generics when possible, you will save money without sacrificing quality.

SHOULD I CHANGE TO GENERICS ON ALL MY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS? Not all name brand drugs have generics available. You should discuss this issue with your doctor and follow his treatment recommendations. If a generic is available and prescribed by your doctor, only the highest quality will be dispensed. You always have the final choice.

DO ALL BRAND NAME DRUGS HAVE GENERIC EQUIVALENTS?

New “Brand Name” drugs are typically protected under patent for 17-20 years. This means that no generic copy can be developed during that time period. For brand name drugs that have no generic copy, there often exists a “therapeutically equivalent” Generic alternative. Though they are not the exact chemical copy of the Brand Name Drug, they are a generic therapeutically equivalent alternative that treats the medical condition in a similar way.

To access Script Care’s **Therapeutic Alternatives List** online visit www.scriptcare.com and log in to the member portal. This list and other resources can be found on the Downloads page.

HOW DO I FIND A GENERIC EQUIVALENT FOR MY MEDICATION?

Generic alternatives and copays can be found at www.scriptcare.com by logging in to the member portal. Select the **Price Calculator** and enter the brand name of a drug. The **Price Calculator** will generate the copay for the drug selected and also generate the generic alternative and its copay.

If you have any questions, please contact SCL Customer Service at 1-800-880-9988, or visit us on the web at www.scriptcare.com.