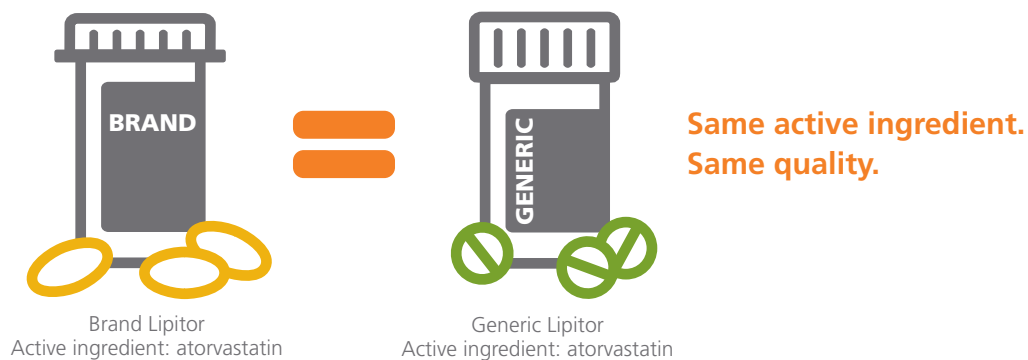


Generic Medications

Five things you need to know

1 What is a generic medication?

Generic medications are generic versions of brand-name medications. A generic medication contains the same active ingredient(s) as a brand medication. An active ingredient is what makes the medication work. For example, Lipitor and its generic both contain atorvastatin, which reduces the amount of bad cholesterol. Brand-name medications are often protected by a patent. When the patent ends, drug companies can apply to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to begin making generic versions of the brand-name medication.



2 Will a generic medication work the same as the brand?

Yes. Generics are copies of brand-name medications that have been tested and approved by the FDA. Drug manufacturers must prove their generic medications are the same as the brand-name medication, including:

- What it treats
- The way it is taken
- How well it works

3 Could a generic medication look different than the brand?

Yes. Generic medications may have a different shape or color than the brand. They may contain other ingredients, such as dyes and fillers, which give a medication its color and size. The shape or color does not affect how the medication works.

4

Can I save money by using a generic medication?

Most of the time a generic medication costs less than the brand. However, there may be times when the cost for a generic medication is higher than the brand-name medication. The easiest way to compare brand and generic medication costs is to visit **optumrx.com**.

5

How can I get a generic medication?

Talk to your doctor to find out if generic options are available for medications you currently take. When your doctor prescribes a new medication, ask if any generics are available. Most retail and mail service pharmacies automatically give you a generic medication if it is available. If they don't, be sure to tell your pharmacist you prefer to receive generic medications whenever possible.

You can also visit **optumrx.com** to find out if your medication has a generic available that costs less than your current prescription. Log into your member account and click on **Drug Pricing** to find out if a generic medication is available.

The screenshot shows the OptumRx website interface. At the top right, there are links for Home, Log Out, Ethel Johnson, My Messages (0), and My Cart (0). Below the navigation bar, there are several menu items including My Prescriptions, My Account, Order Medical Supplies, Health Store, Specialty Pharmacy, Health Tools, Customer Service, and What's New. A secondary menu includes My Medicine Cabinet, Hassle-Free Fill, Renew Prescriptions, Transfer Prescriptions, Fill New Prescriptions, Order Status, and Claim History. The main content area is titled 'Welcome Ethel Johnson' and features a 'REFILL' button for 'Refill Prescriptions (0)'. Below this, there are sections for 'RENEW' (Renew Expired Prescriptions (0)) and 'ORDER' (Order Status). A 'Prescriptions' section includes a calendar for August 2014, with the 11th highlighted. A search bar and a 'Cart (0) \$0.00' are also visible. On the right side, a vertical menu contains 'Drug Pricing', 'Drug Lookup', 'Formulary', 'Real Time Benefits', and 'Locate a Pharmacy'. The 'Drug Pricing' option is highlighted with an orange box, and a large orange arrow points to it from the right.



OptumRx specializes in the delivery, clinical management and affordability of prescription medications and consumer health products. We are an OptumTM company — a leading provider of integrated health services. Learn more at **optum.com**.

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