



American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (aapp.org)

What You Need to Know About Generic Medications

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Generic Names for Common Mental Health Medications

Antidepressants

(Brand Name)	(Generic Name)
Celexa	→ Citalopram
Cymbalta	→ Duloxetine
Effexor	→ Venlafaxine
Lexapro	→ Escitalopram
Paxil	→ Paroxetine
Prozac	→ Fluoxetine
Zoloft	→ Sertraline
Viibryd	→ Vilazodone
Auvelity	→ Bupropion/DM
Spravato	→ Esketamine

Antipsychotics

(Brand Name)	(Generic Name)
Abilify	→ Aripiprazole
Clozaril	→ Clozapine
Haldol	→ Haloperidol
Seroquel	→ Quetiapine
Risperdal	→ Risperidone
Zyprexa	→ Olanzapine
Latuda	→ Lurasidone
Invega	→ Paliperidone
Geodon	→ Ziprasidone
Saphris	→ Asenapine
Vraylar	→ Cariprazine
Rexulti	→ Brexpiprazole
Cobenfy	→ Xanomeline/ trospium chloride

Mood Stabilizers

(Brand Name)	(Generic Name)
Lamictal	→ Lamotrigine
Lithobid	→ Lithium
Tegretol	→ Carbamazepine
Depakote	→ Divalproex

What are generic medications?

- Generic medications contain the same active ingredient as the brand-name medications.
- Generic medications contain different inactive ingredients which can cause them to look different, but this does not affect their effectiveness.
- The use of generic medications helps to lower costs.

Does the FDA monitor the safety of generic medication?

The FDA monitors for safety, quality, and to make sure the medication is working the way it should be and that they are created under the same rules as the brand name.¹ The FDA makes sure that the amount of medication that gets into the body between dosages is as close as possible to the amount that gets into the body with the brand-name medication.⁵

Is there a generic version of my medication?

One of the best ways to find out if a medication is available as a generic is to **ask your local pharmacist.**

Can a pharmacist automatically change a medication for a generic version?

Some states let pharmacists change a brand-name medication to a generic medication if a physician does not ask for the brand name.⁴ **Contact your physician, pharmacist, or other health care worker for information about your medications.**

Compared To Brand Name Medications, Generic Medications Have The Same:

- ✓ Active ingredient
- ✓ Strength
- ✓ Form (capsule, tablet, injection)
- ✓ Onset of action
- ✓ Delivery methods (mouth, eye, ear)

More information about generic medications

In the United States, 9 out of 10 prescriptions filled at pharmacies are for generic medications. Many people wonder whether these medications are as good as the brand-name medications. It is important for people to understand what generic medications are.

- Generic medications are suitable substitutes for brand-name medications.²
- It is important to know that generic medications may look different than the brand name. Differences may include size, shape, and color.¹ A generic medication works just as well and provides the same benefit as the brand name version.
- The generic medication is made after the brand-name medication has been on the market for a set period of time. This is because new medications are protected by laws that prevent other companies from making and selling similar medications until a certain amount of time has passed.
- Generic medications allow individuals to get medication for a lower price compared to the brand-name medication. Companies who make the generics are required to show that the same amount of active ingredient gets into the body and, therefore, will treat the disease. These generic medications do not have to go through the same process as the company that discovered it, therefore reducing the cost of the medication.
- Many companies can be approved to create the same generics. This creates competition in the market. Competition can lead to lower prices and greater availability to patients. Generic medications can cost up to 80% less than brand-name medications.³
- Switching from a brand-name medication to a generic medication typically does not result in significant changes in the effectiveness. However, patients may experience some differences when switching from one generic medication to another generic medication, as the active ingredient can vary by 80-125% from brand name medication to the generic medications.⁵



Go online to find information on generic options for your specific medications, to learn more about generic medications, and to view the references for this toolkit.

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