

Generic Equivalents and Generic Alternatives

Know the Difference

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires generics to have the same quality, strength, purity and stability as brand name drugs.

Generic Equivalent: A generic equivalent is made with the same active ingredients in the same dosage form as a brand name product, and provides the same therapeutic effects as the brand name drug. Not all brand name drugs have generic equivalents, but many do.

Generic Alternative: A generic alternative is a drug that may be used to treat the same condition as a brand name drug. However, it may have a different chemical formula and ingredients. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions about generic alternatives.