## **What are generic drugs?**

A generic drug is a medication created to be the same as an already marketed brand-name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics, and intended use. These similarities help to demonstrate bioequivalence, which means that **a generic medicine works in the same way and provides the same clinical benefit as the brand-name medicine.** In other words, you can take a generic medicine as an equal substitute for its brand-name counterpart.

## **Why does a generic drug look different from the brand drug?**

Trademark laws in the United States do not allow a generic drug to look exactly like other drugs already on the market. Generic medicines and brand-name medicines share the same active ingredient, but other characteristics, such as colors and flavorings, that do not affect the performance, safety, or effectiveness of the generic medicine, may be different.

## **What are the differences between generic medicine and non-generic medicine?**

A major difference between generic medicine and non-generic medicine is the cost. For generic medicine manufacturing, expenses related to patent and exclusive rights like brand-name non-generic medicine are not needed. Therefore generic medicines are priced at a lower amount,

The colour, shape, packaging and inactive elements are different in the two medicines. Another difference between the two is the expiration date. Some generic medicines may have an extended [**expiration date**](https://pharmeasy.in/blog/what-are-the-safest-ways-to-dispose-old-expired-medicines/) than non-generic medicine.

## **Are generic medicines safe?**

Generic medicines cost less but are not less effective. Makers of these medicines do not spend money on the development, research, animal and human clinical trials, marketing and advertising. A non-generic medicine with an expired patent can apply for a license to sell generic medicine, which is evaluated and approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation only if it meets safety and quality standards.

Generic medicine contains the same active ingredient that had undergone all clinical trials and quality testing during its patent when it was manufactured by a brand as the non-generic medicine. Therefore, these are considered to be safe. Pharmacovigilance centers monitor the safety and side effects of medications. They ensure consumers are getting effective and safe medicines. They also investigate problem reports and make recommendations to manufacturers, healthcare professionals and the public.

## **Can I get generic medicine in India?**

Generic medicines are available in India and you can buy them from pharmacies across cities and states. The endeavor of PMBJP (Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna) is to make therapeutic medicines available to the public and you can purchase generic medicines from Jan Aushadhi Stores.

The Drugs Technical Advisory Board of India amended a rule in the constitution to allow pharmacies to sell generic medicines to patients even if the prescriptions specify the branded versions. The best way to find a generic medicine alternative is to talk to your pharmacist or doctor and search for the active ingredient in the medicine. You can also purchase generic medicines through online pharmacies like PharmEasy. Sometimes, a brand medicine may not have a generic variant available. You must discuss it with your doctor.

# **Are Generic Medicines Effective For Children?**

**Things a parent must know about generic medicines for children.**

* Like non-generic brand medicines, generic medicines will also have to undergo approval before being sold. These medicines receive approval from CDSCO only if they meet the same standards of quality, strength, purity and stability as non-generic medicines. The generic medicines submit an application that gets reviewed to ensure these medicines are safe for consumption.
* A pediatrician may or may not prescribe generic medicine alternatives for your child if they feel it is inappropriate for your child’s health. You must always discuss with a pediatrician if you can use generic medicine. Since non-generic medicines and generic medicines have the same active ingredient, if a child is allergic to a non-generic medicine, they will also be allergic to the generic medicine and you must discuss this with the pediatrician.
* In rare cases, the inactive ingredients in generic medicines which are different from non-generic [**medicine**](https://pharmeasy.in/blog/what-are-the-safest-ways-to-dispose-old-expired-medicines/) can cause allergic reactions in patients when switching from one manufacturer to another. These unlikely events can occur if the patient is switching between different generic manufacturers as well. Not every non-generic medicine has a generic substitute. You should talk to the pediatrician about your concerns and do what’s best for your child.

Conclusion: Parents are hesitant to use generic medication for their children. They fear side effects associated with generic medicines. These medicines are beneficial to patients and the healthcare system.

## **Why do generic medicines cost less?**

Non-generic brand-name medications are produced by manufacturers who invest money in research, development, testing, patent and marketing of new medicines, increasing the price of these medicines. These are also protected by patents or other exclusivity periods after the patent or trademark expiration. The generic version can be developed and sold after approval, which costs less as it involves no further rework in research, testing and marketing.

# **Generic Medicines: Are Good Or Bad For You?**

According to the World Health Organization, each year, around 100 million people are pushed towards poverty owing to the global “catastrophic health expenditure”. People face financial difficulties due to medical payments in low-income countries. Non-generic medications are comparatively expensive and a large number of people cannot afford them. Generic medicines, on the other hand, are equal to brand-name non-generic medicines in terms of therapeutic benefits but are available at a lower price. Generic medicines help cut medical costs to a great extent. Some of These medicines cost one-third of what non-generic medicines cost. Most people are unaware of the benefits of generic medicines. Below are a few pros and cons of generic medicines that we have discussed to help clear your doubts regarding generic medicines-

## **Pros:**

## Let us look at the reasons why generic medicines must be used and sold more widely:

1. **Cheaper prices** – [**Generic medicines**](https://pharmeasy.in/blog/why-are-generic-medicines-less-expensive/) are typically a more affordable alternative to non-generic medicines. Some non-generic medicine manufacturers charge customers higher prices to cover research and patent protection costs which generic medicine manufacturers do not have to. Non-generic medicine manufacturers spend huge amounts of money on innovating and marketing new medicines, whereas generic medicine manufacturers rarely spend any money on advertising and marketing; they are basically copies of their non-generic medicine counterparts and are capable of keeping their costs low.
2. **Safety** – When a generic medicine manufacturer submits an application for a license to sell the medicine, it has to undergo a thorough examination and testing and the manufacturing facilities are closely evaluated to ensure that every generic medicine is safe and of high quality. Generic medicines undergo a rigorous review to ensure their safety.
3. **Bioequivalent** – Generic medicines use the same active ingredients as non-generic medicines and have the same risks and effectiveness. Generic medicines offer equally high-quality and effective treatment as non-generic medicines but at much lower prices.
4. **Economic benefits** – Generic medicines ensure equal access to healthcare for all. The generic medicines industry provides cost-effective treatments for a large range of health conditions; they also engage in innovation and open up major opportunities for export.
5. **Better patient compliance**– Some people who had to discontinue their treatment due to a lack of money can now afford to continue their treatment with generic medicines.

## **Cons:**

1. **Hesitation among people** – Many people have doubts related to the quality of generic medicines and hence hesitate to purchase them. You can rest assured about the quality by purchasing generic medicines from government set outlets of janaushadhi or by choosing to buy generics manufactured from trusted brands Difference in opinion – Many doctors remain divided on this, while some are in favor of the use of generic medicines, some of them are not. Certain medications, including thyroid supplements and blood thinners, show evidence of clinically meaningful problems when switching between non-generic and generic or different generic medicine manufacturers.
2. **Availability** – All non-generic medicines may not have [**generic medicine**](https://pharmeasy.in/blog/benefits-of-generic-medicines-you-must-know/) alternatives. Some brands continue to hold patents to produce and market non-generic medicine. You can ask your doctor or the pharmacist to help you identify whether your non-generic medicine has any “therapeutic equivalent” versions.
3. **Sustainability** – Many pharmaceutical companies have combined both originator and generic divisions. However, the generic medicines industry faces a number of challenges, like delayed market access, pressure on price reduction and the negative perception regarding generic medicines held by some key stakeholder groups. The long-term sustainability of the generic medicine manufacturing industry is questionable. Therefore, the government is focusing on this and under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), generic medicines are made available to the public.

**9. Everything you need to know about Generic medicines!!**

## **Introduction -**A generic medicine is a substitute for non-generic medicine; both are the same in composition, excluding the inactive ingredients. Generic medicines can only be produced after the patent of the non-generic medicine has expired and manufacturers get approval from the government authorities in India to make bioequivalent medicines by maintaining safety and quality standards. People have different opinions about generic medicines and listed below are some myths and facts which will help you make an informed and wise choice.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are not as safe as non-generic medicines.**

**Fact:** The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation mandates that all medicines manufactured must meet a specific quality and safety standard to be allowed for selling in the market. There are strict terms for approving the request for manufacturing generic medicines and the authorities ensure that all medicines are safe and effective for the public. Generic medicines are bioequivalent of non-generic medicines and are both made with the same active ingredients.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are not as effective as non-generic medicines.**

**Fact**: Generic and non-generic medicines use the same active ingredients, and their strength is no different. You will receive the same benefits from generic medicines as from non-generic medicines and they will also take equal time to produce results.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are more likely to cause side effects**.

**Fact:** Generic medicines as well as non-generic medicines are monitored by The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation in India and checked for harmful medicine reactions. Generic medicine does not cause any exclusive or added side effects.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines take longer to act in the body.**

**Fact:** The active ingredient and its strength are the same in both medicines and the dosage form is the same as the original product. Therefore generic medicines are made to be equally effective as non-generics.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are sold loose in pharmacies.**

**Fact:** Generic medicines are not sold loose, they are packed properly and due care is taken in storing and distributing these medicines.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are priced low because they are not good.**

**Fact:** A generic medicine is pharmaceutically and therapeutically the same as non-generic medicines. Generic medicines cost less, but their quality is not compromised. Makers of generic medicines do not have to spend on research, testing, marketing and advertising, which is why they can be sold at low prices.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are** [**expired medicines.**](https://pharmeasy.in/blog/what-are-the-safest-ways-to-dispose-old-expired-medicines/)

**Fact:** An expiration date of medicine is the last date at which the manufacturer can still guarantee the full safety, purity and effectiveness of the medication. Once the patent of a non-generic medicine expires, it means it can now be manufactured as a generic medicine and if it receives the approval of The Drugs Control Advisory Board, after meeting all the safety and quality standards, then it can be sold as a generic medicine at a low cost. This does not mean the medicine is expired or ineffective.

1. **Myth: Generic medicines are not recommended by doctors.**

**Fact:** Generic medicines are widely available, and many doctors recommend them to patients. Doctors and pharmacists are requested to promote non-generic medicines, which is why they recommend them. Doctors may genuinely feel a generic medicine is not appropriate for patients. Otherwise, generic medicine is often mentioned in the prescription.

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