

# GENERIC MEDICINE VERSUS BRAND-NAME DRUGS

**CGPA**

Making Patient Care Affordable

## SAME QUALITY

as brand-name drugs

All drugs (brand-name and generic) are reviewed and authorized for sale by Health Canada before they are available for prescription. A generic drug is designed to work the same way in the body as the original brand-name drug.

## SAME ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

as brand-name drugs

Generic drugs have the same active ingredient (the chemical that makes the drug work) and that means they work the same way in the body as the brand-name drug. Generic drugs must also have the same amount of active ingredient in the prescription.

The non-medicinal ingredients, such as fillers and preservatives, may be different from brand-name products, but they are also regulated and subject to the same review process.

## SAME MANUFACTURING STANDARDS

as brand-name drugs

To receive a license to manufacture and sell drugs in Canada, both brand-name companies and generic drug companies must follow the same good manufacturing practices (GMP) guidelines, which ensure consistent production and quality standards.

## SAME SAFETY & EFFICACY

as brand-name drugs

When a generic prescription drug has been reviewed and authorized for sale by Health Canada, it means the medicine is as safe and effective as the original brand-name drug and works the same way in the body.



## MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION EVERY DAY

In Canada, 700 million prescriptions were filled in 2018. More than 71-percent of all prescriptions were dispensed with generic medicines. That means, on average, everyday more than 1.3 million prescriptions were filled using generic medicine.

### AVERAGE PRICE PER PRESCRIPTION\*

GENERIC



**\$19.45**

BRAND-NAME



**\$105.18**

## WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT PRICE?

**I'm covered by my drug plan**

Your drug plan is a benefit to keep you and your family healthy. The price of generic medicine makes patient care affordable and drug benefit plans sustainable. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if there is a generic equivalent available for your prescription needs.

For more information on generic medicine versus brand-name drugs contact CADTH. CADTH is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for providing **objective evidence** to help make informed decisions about prescription medicines.

[www.cadth.ca](http://www.cadth.ca)

**CADTH** Evidence Driven.

\* Source: IQVIA

\*\* Source: Most recently available data from Statistics Canada & IQVIA