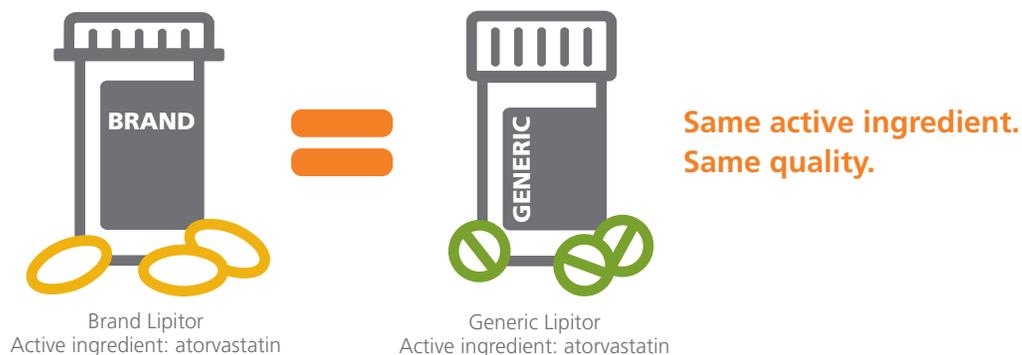


# Generic Medications

## 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?

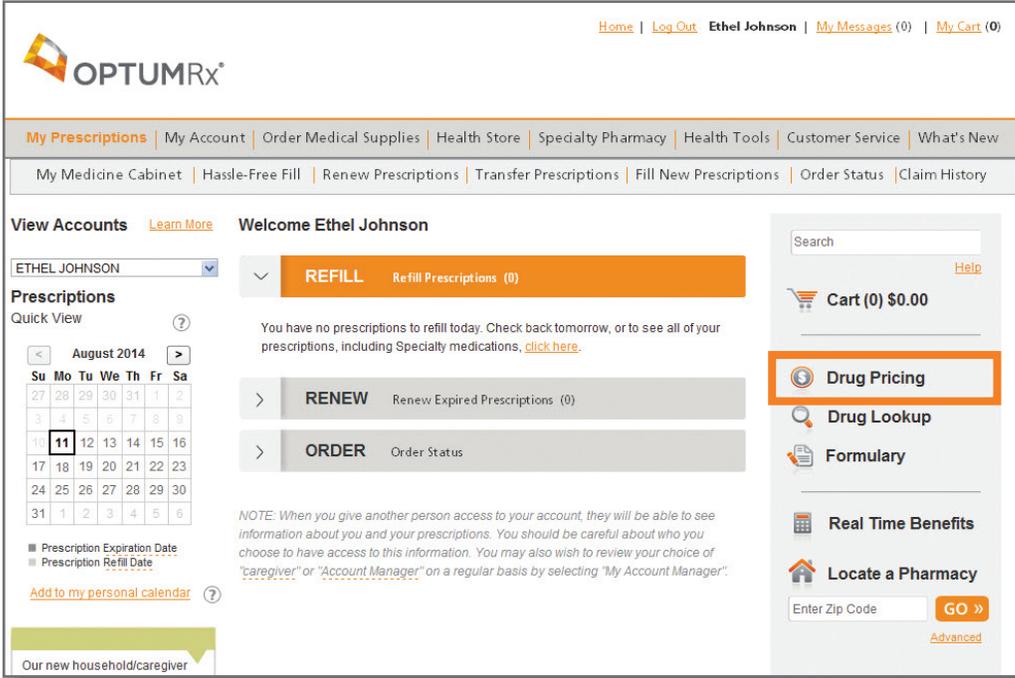
Most of the time a generic medication costs less than the brand. However, there may be times when the cost for a generic medication is higher than the brand-name medication. The easiest way to compare brand and generic medication costs is to visit **optumrx.com**.

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, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Log Out, Ethel Johnson, My Messages (0), and My Cart (0). Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for My Prescriptions, My Account, Order Medical Supplies, Health Store, Specialty Pharmacy, Health Tools, Customer Service, and What's New. A third navigation bar includes links for 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 is a 'Prescriptions' section with a 'Quick View' button and a calendar for August 2014. The calendar shows the 11th as the current date. To the right of the calendar is a 'RENEW' button for 'Renew Expired Prescriptions (0)' and an 'ORDER' button for 'Order Status'. A note below these buttons states: 'NOTE: When you give another person access to your account, they will be able to see information about you and your prescriptions. You should be careful about who you choose to have access to this information. You may also wish to review your choice of "caregiver" or "Account Manager" on a regular basis by selecting "My Account Manager".' At the bottom of the main content area is a link to 'Add to my personal calendar'. On the right side of the page is a sidebar with a search bar, a 'Cart (0) \$0.00' button, and a list of navigation options: 'Drug Pricing' (highlighted with an orange box and an orange arrow), 'Drug Lookup', 'Formulary', 'Real Time Benefits', and 'Locate a Pharmacy'. The 'Locate a Pharmacy' section includes a 'Enter Zip Code' field and a 'GO' button.



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