

# FDA GENERIC DRUG APPROVAL CHECKLIST

A generic drug must show the following before FDA approval:

- ✓ The drug is “pharmaceutically equivalent” to the name brand.
- ✓ The manufacturer is able to make the drug correctly and consistently.
- ✓ The active ingredient is the same as that of the brand.
- ✓ The active ingredient gets to the place in the body where it has effect.
- ✓ The inactive ingredients of the drug are safe.
- ✓ The drug must not break down over time.
- ✓ The drug’s container must be appropriate to ensure unaffected quality.
- ✓ The drug information label is the same as the brand’s.
- ✓ Relevant patents or legal exclusivities on the brand drug have expired.

Source: FDA



# SAVE WITH GENERICS

Did you know?

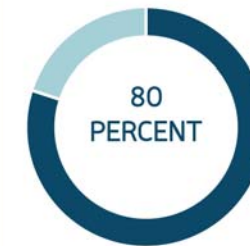
NEARLY 8 IN 10 PRESCRIPTIONS filled in the United States are for generic drugs.



Generic drugs can be **SOLD CHEAPER**, since they do not have to pay for costly clinical trials already completed by the name brands.



Generics cost **80-85 PERCENT LESS THAN** name brands.



The FDA requires generics to have the **SAME ACTIVE INGREDIENTS** as their name-brand counterparts.

Many generic drugs are made in the **SAME MANUFACTURING PLANTS** as the name-brand drugs.

Source: FDA





# SAVE MONEY ON YOUR PRESCRIPTION



Combine pills.



Review the formulary for lower-cost drug options.



Follow step-therapy rules.



If you need a drug exception, ask.



Use preferred pharmacies.



Be cautious of online scams.



Look at other insurance options.



Talk to your doctor.



Price check drugs.



Avoid drugs advertised on TV.



Consider nonprescription medication.



Buy prescriptions in larger quantities.

Disclaimer: This section is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical advice. For further information, please contact a medical professional.

## Top 5 Generic Drugs in 2016

These generic drugs comprised the most-filled prescriptions in the United States for the first quarter of 2016.

1. **Atorvastatin Calcium**  
(treats high cholesterol)

2. **Levothyroxine**  
(treats hypothyroidism)

3. **Lisinopril**  
(treats high blood pressure)

4. **Omeprazole**  
(treats gastroesophageal reflux disease symptoms)

5. **Metformin**  
(treats blood sugar levels for Type 2 diabetes)

Source: lowestmed.com

