Generic medications
The five things you need to know

1. **What is a generic medication and how is it different than a brand?**
   A generic medication contains the same active ingredient(s), the component(s) of a medication that makes it work, as a brand medication. Generics often become available after the brand medication’s patent ends.

   **What’s an active ingredient?**
   The active ingredient is what makes the medication work. For example, Lipitor and its generic both contain atorvastatin, which reduces the amount of bad cholesterol.

   ![Generic vs Brand](image)

   Brand Lipitor
   **Active ingredient:** atorvastatin
   
   Generic Lipitor
   **Active ingredient:** atorvastatin

2. **Could a generic look different than the brand?**
   Yes, generic medications may have a different shape or color than the brand. They might contain different inactive ingredients, such as fillers and dyes, which can give a medication its color and size.

   **Does the shape or color change how the medication works?**
   No, the shape or color does not impact how the medication works. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves generic medications because they contain the same active ingredient as the brand name medication.

   ![Generic vs Brand](image)

   Brand Medication
   **Same Quality**
   
   Generic Medications

*In some cases a generic medication may cost more than a brand. Visit myuhc.com to compare prices.*
3 **How can I get a generic medication?**
Most retail and mail service pharmacies automatically give you a generic medication if it is available. If they don’t, be sure to ask! If your doctor has specifically requested a brand, ask if a generic medication is right for you.

4 **How do I know if a generic medication is available?**
To find out if your medication has a generic available and costs less than your current prescription, visit the pharmacy page on [myuhc.com](http://myuhc.com)® and go to “Manage My Prescriptions”, then select the Price Drug tool to find if there is a generic medication available.

5 **Will a generic save me money?**
Most of the time a generic medication costs less than the brand. However, there are times where the generic medication is more expensive than the brand prescription. The easiest way to find out if a generic medication costs less than a brand is go to [myuhc.com](http://myuhc.com).

You may find lower-cost options for all your medications on [myuhc.com](http://myuhc.com).