

# Are Generics as good as Brand-Name Drugs?

## The simple truth

Generic drugs are copies of brand-name drugs. They are just as safe, are equal in quality, and much lower in cost than brand-name drugs. Choosing generic drugs means you can keep money in your pocket where it belongs while helping control the cost of your extended health plan.

Next time you get a prescription, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the generic equivalent.

## Generic drugs are SAFE

Health Canada's approval process for generic drug manufacturing is as strict as the process for brand-name drugs. In Canada, both brand-name and generic drug manufacturers follow the same testing and quality control standards. You can be assured that generic drugs are just as effective and safe as brand-name drugs.

## Generic drugs are equal in QUALITY

Generic drugs provide the same quality as their brand-name counterparts. All ingredients in generic drugs must be approved by Health Canada and include the same active ingredient, provide the same strength per dosage, and be administered the same way (oral, topical, or injection). You can buy quality drugs at an affordable price.

You can also contact us:  
**Extended Health Claims** 604 419-2600  
**Toll-free** 1 888 275-4672

[www.pac.bluecross.ca](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca)



## Generic drugs are LOWER in COST

A generic prescription is about 25% of the price of the brand-name equivalent in British Columbia. Generic drug manufacturers do not need to invest as much money on research, development, testing, and approval processes as brand-name drug manufacturers. Also, they do not spend millions of dollars on promotion and advertising.

In 2011, over 60% of prescriptions filled were generic drugs, but they only accounted for 24.5% of the \$22.1 billion that Canadians spent on prescription drugs. **Canadians would save an additional \$262 million for every one percent increase in generic drug use\*.**

By buying generic drugs, you can save your own hard earned dollars and help reduce costs to your health care plan.

Take a look at the huge cost difference between a brand-name drug and a generic drug:

| BRAND-NAME:<br>Crestor <sup>†</sup> | GENERIC NAME:<br>Rosuvastatin Calcium <sup>†</sup> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Drug cost <b>\$173</b>              | Drug cost <b>\$45.90</b>                           |
| Plan pays <b>\$138.40</b> (80%)     | Plan pays <b>\$36.72</b> (80%)                     |
| Member pays <b>\$34.60</b> (20%)    | Member pays <b>\$9.18</b> (20%)                    |

<sup>†</sup>20mg

**MEMBER SAVINGS = \$25.42**

**PLAN SAVINGS = \$101.68**

Many brand-name drugs have generic equivalents and each year new ones enter the market. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for generic drugs whenever possible or if there are any therapeutic alternatives to treat your condition.

\*www.canadiangenerics.ca — The Role of the Generic Pharmaceutical Industry in Canadian Healthcare, 04/12