

Get to know the new name for your medicine(s)

Ask your pharmacist to help you fill in the table below with the generic name of your medicine.

The generic names for your medicines are as follows:

Generic Name	Brand Name

Generic Medicines

Different names for the same thing...



If you need further information please speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

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Ask for publication CGD 150113

The name and appearance of your medicine may change.
Please read this leaflet to find out why.



What is a generic medicine?

When pharmaceutical companies develop a new medicine they give it two names:

'Generic Name'

The name of the drug contained in the medicine - for example Paracetamol.

'Brand Name'

The name given to the medicine by the manufacturer - for example Panadol, Calpol and Disprol are all 'brand' names given by different manufacturers to medicines containing Paracetamol.

Why are doctors prescribing generic medicines?

The main advantage to prescribing generic medicines is that they usually cost less than branded medicines.

The average branded medicine costs more than four times its generic equivalent.

By prescribing generically doctors can make best use of your NHS money.

How does this affect you?

Your doctor is expected to prescribe medicines by their generic name, so the name and appearance of your medicine may change. If for any medical reason it is important that you receive a specific brand, your doctor will not change it to a generic one.

Are generic medicines as good as branded medicines?

Yes. Manufacture of generic medicines is regulated by the same strict controls of safety and quality as branded medicines. Many companies making generics also make branded products.

Why do generic medicines look different?

Generic medicines are made by different companies, therefore they may differ from their branded counterpart in size, shape, colour and sometimes taste but they contain exactly the same drug.

Concerned about a change in the appearance of your medicine?

When your doctor prescribes a generic medicine, you may find that it differs in appearance from your usual brand. If you are in any way concerned about a change in appearance of any of your medicines, your pharmacist or doctor will be happy to advise you.

What can you do to help make the change to generic medicines easier?

Always try to take your prescription to the same pharmacy. In this way you are more likely to get the same generic medicine each time.

About your medicines

- Always read the label on your medicines and take them as instructed.
- Always read the patient information leaflet provided with your medicine - it will tell you about any possible side effects. Read it carefully and keep it with your medicine.
- Keep medicines in a cool, dark place, safely out of the reach of children.
- Don't throw unwanted medicines out with household waste or flush them down the toilet - this can put other people at risk or cause dangerous pollution.
- If you have unwanted or out of date medicines please return them to your local pharmacist for safe disposal.
- If you have any questions about your medicines, ask your pharmacist or doctor.

