



**Independence  
Blue Cross**

## *Important Facts* about Generic Drugs.

- FACT:** Generic Drugs contain the same active ingredients as their brand name drugs.
- FACT:** Generic Drugs, like brand name drugs, must also be manufactured according to federal standards.
- FACT:** Generic medications are manufactured by nationally-known and respected pharmaceutical companies and many manufacture brand name drugs as well.
- FACT:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensures that Generic Drugs are therapeutically equivalent to the brand name drug.
- FACT:** For legal reasons the inactive ingredients in generic drugs are different than the brand drugs such as flavor, color and shape.
- FACT:** Generic Drugs are a great low-cost alternative to brand name drugs. You do not have to sacrifice quality for cost. Generics are as safe as their brand-name counterparts.
- FACT:** Generic Drugs cost less because they do not require the same animal and clinical testing, research, advertising and marketing that a brand name drug requires.
- FACT:** The Generic name is the chemical name for the identical brand name drug.
- FACT:** Over the next few years there will be generic versions of many of the brand name drugs available today, so ask your doctor or pharmacist if a new generic equivalent is right for you.
- FACT:** Generic drug makers cannot copy a brand name drug until the patent has expired.

