

Did you know...?

Authorized Generics (AGs)

What are generics?

Generics are drugs manufactured and marketed by generics manufacturers by using pharmaceutical active ingredients of original brand-name drugs whose patents have expired.

Generics can be less expensive as their development cost is lower.



I want to use generics, but I'm a bit concerned ...

Since generics are 20%-70% less expensive than their original versions, they have higher penetration these days than before. However, some patients hesitate to switch to generics, saying they are vaguely concerned.



Authorized Generics (AGs)

That's how "AGs" came about. "AGs" stands for "authorized generics." Generally, an AG is manufactured by an affiliate or subsidiary company of the original manufacturer. The original manufacturer gives a license to use its patents to its affiliate or subsidiary, and the AG is manufactured by using the same factory, production line, drug substance, excipients, and everything else as the original brand-name drug. AGs are generic drugs that give patients further peace of mind.

Note: Some AGs use a different manufacturing method than their original versions.



AGs will save medical costs

As they help save money on drugs, generics are getting more popular among patients year by year. Their popularity has been further enhanced by the advent of AGs, which are appreciated for their identicalness, and equivalence in efficacy, to their original versions.

There aren't many AGs available yet, but they are also expected to reduce the ever-increasing healthcare expenditure.



Examples of drugs and their AG versions

	Original brand-name drug	AG
Hypertension	Avapro Tablets (Sumitomo Pharma)	▶ Irbesartan Tablets (Sumitomo Pharma Promo)
	Olmotec OD Tablets (DAIICHI SANKYO)	▶ Olmesartan OD Tablets (DAIICHI SANKYO ESPHA)
	Micardis Tablets (Boehringer)	▶ Telmisartan Tablets (DAIICHI SANKYO ESPHA)
Hay fever	Allegra Tablets (Sanofi)	▶ Fexofenadine Hydrochloride Tablets (Nichi-Iko)
	Talion Tablets (Mitsubishi Tanabe)	▶ Bepotastine Besilate Tablets (NIPRO)
Headache drug	Imigran Tablets (GSK)	▶ Sumatriptan Tablets (Sandoz)
Bronchial asthma	Kipres Tablets (KYORIN)	▶ Montelukast Tablets (KYORIN Rimedio)
Antiviral	Valtrex Tablets (GSK)	▶ Valaciclovir Tablets (Sandoz)

Note: Not all generics have their AG version.

Please talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you wish to try AGs!!