

# Generic medications

## The five things you need to know

### 1 What is a generic medication and how is it different than a brand?

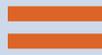
A generic medication contains the same active ingredient(s), the component(s) of a medication that makes it work, as a brand medication. Generics often become available after the brand medication's patent ends.

#### 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.



Brand Lipitor  
**Active ingredient:**  
atorvastatin



**Same Active  
Ingredient**



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.



**Brand  
Medication**



**Same Quality**



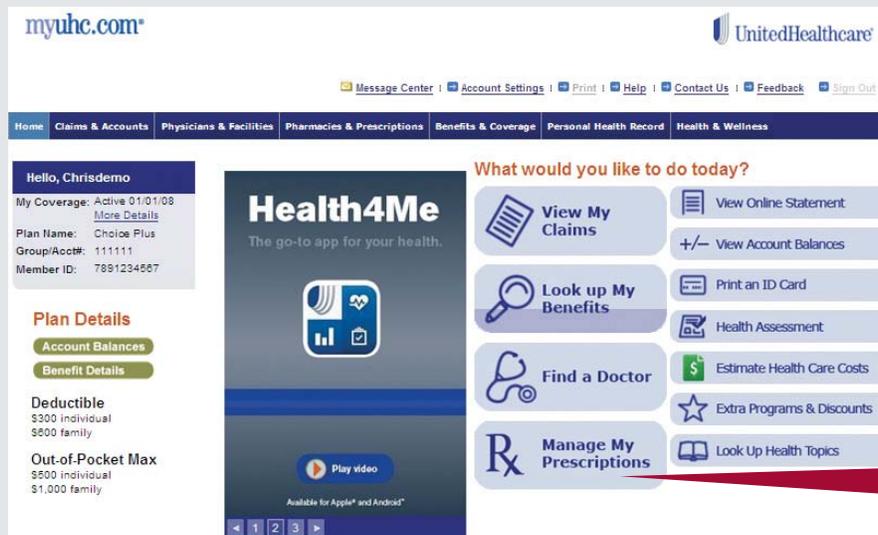
**Generic  
Medications**

### 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**<sup>®</sup> and go to "Manage My Prescriptions", then select the Price Drug tool to find if there is a generic medication available.



The screenshot shows the myuhc.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Message Center, Account Settings, Print, Help, Contact Us, Feedback, and Sign Out. Below this is a main navigation menu with categories like Home, Claims & Accounts, Physicians & Facilities, Pharmacies & Prescriptions, Benefits & Coverage, Personal Health Record, and Health & Wellness. The main content area is divided into several sections: a user greeting for Chrisdemo, plan details for 'Choice Plus', a 'Health4Me' app promotion, and a 'What would you like to do today?' section. The 'Manage My Prescriptions' option in the 'What would you like to do today?' section is highlighted with a red callout bubble that says 'Click Here!'.

### 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**.



You may find lower-cost options for all your medications on **myuhc.com**.

