



## New Medicaid Generic Drug Program

Effective November 17, 2002, a new Medicaid law requires that New York State Medicaid recipients get generic drugs in place of brand name drugs.

### What is the new Medicaid law?

The new law requires doctors to prescribe the generic version of a drug, unless they get special approval for a brand name drug.

### What is a generic drug?

A generic drug is a copy of a brand name drug. It is the same medicine with the same active ingredients as the brand name drug, but usually made by another company.

### Is a generic drug as good as a brand name drug?

Yes. The federal government makes certain that the generic drug is as safe and effective as the brand name drug. (You may already be taking generic drugs).

### Will this affect all my prescriptions?

No. The law only affects you if you are taking a brand name drug that has a generic version, and the doctor writes a new prescription for the brand name drug.

### What if I am taking a brand name drug that has a generic version?

Medicaid will not pay for your brand name drug unless your doctor calls Medicaid to get approval, and writes the approval number on your prescription.

### What if my doctor forgets to get the approval for my brand name drug?



The pharmacist can call your doctor to discuss if the generic drug is right for you.

### What if I really need my medicine and the doctor's office is closed?

In an emergency, the pharmacist may give you a small supply of the brand name drug until you can talk to someone at your doctor's office or clinic.

### Why are my pills a different color than they used to be?

Generic pills may look different because they are made by another company. They may be a different color or shape, but they are as safe and effective as the brand name drug.



## REMEMBER:

- Only your doctor can decide which drugs you should take.
- Generic drugs are safe and effective copies of brand name drugs and are approved by the federal government.
- Ask your doctor and pharmacist about generic drugs.



### Need help?

Call the Medicaid Hotline:

1-800-541-2831

New York State  
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