

UNDERSTANDING GENERIC DRUGS

What is a generic drug?

A **generic drug** is a medication that's created to be the same as a brand-name drug. Generics and their branded counterparts can have some differences, such as different inactive ingredients. For example, a research study comparing generics with brand-name drugs, found that there were differences (approximately 3.5%) in absorption into the body. This amount of difference can vary between medications. Some generics are absorbed more, while others are absorbed less. This is expected and clinically acceptable.



Why would I receive a generic?

Some insurance companies mandate using generics because they believe they are more affordable. However, this may not be the case as some generics can have higher copay amounts for patients and families.

If you or someone you are caring for is prescribed a generic, you can speak with your health care provider about using DAW to receive a branded substitution.



GENERIC DRUG



DISPENSE AS WRITTEN

PATIENT SUPPORT



TALK TO YOUR
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



MAKE A
REQUEST

What does Dispense as Written (DAW) mean?

When a generic version of a medication becomes available, pharmacies have the option to provide either the generic or the branded medication. DAW codes are used by healthcare providers to indicate when the pharmacy is allowed to substitute a branded product for the generic version. When a healthcare provider says “**dispense as written**” on a prescription, it means the pharmacist should give you the medication the way the doctor wrote it, without any changes.

How do DAW products and generics differ in terms of patient support?

Not all generic manufacturers offer patient assistance programs such as case management support, copay assistance, and insurance coverage determination. The level of support and quality vary significantly from generic companies. If you have concerns about coverage, you could contact your health care provider regarding DAW.

How can I make sure I get the drug I need?

Speak with your health care provider to see if they will make a DAW request on your behalf to the pharmacy. If that is unsuccessful, then as a caregiver or patient you can request DAW, but you may be responsible for a higher cost.