Get the facts about **GENERIC DRUGS**

**MYTHS**

Every brand-name drug has a generic version.

Fact: Not all brand-name drugs have generic versions. Due to the high costs of research and development, all new drugs are protected by patents and can only be sold for a period of time by the company that made them. When these patents expire, other companies are then allowed to seek FDA approval to develop and sell a generic version of the drug.

You need to take more of a generic drug than a brand-name drug.

Fact: All generic drugs must be the same in terms of how they work and how much must be taken compared with brand-name drugs. There is no evidence that brand-name drugs work better than other drugs.

Generic drugs are lower quality than brand names.

Fact: The FDA requires generic companies to meet manufacturing standards that are the same as brand-name drugs.

Brand and generic pills must always look the same.

Fact: Most often, brand-name pills and generic pills look different despite having the same active ingredients.

Generics made in other countries are the same as generic drugs made in the United States.

Fact: Not all generic drugs are the same from country to country. The United States has strict requirements for product testing and manufacturing of generic drugs. Requirements in other countries may be different.

Learn more about generic drugs by visiting chestfoundation.org/generics

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