

# Claims Hound

WE GET MEDICAL SCHEME & INSURANCE CLAIMS PAID  
AND TREATMENTS APPROVED

## HOW TO FIND GENERIC MEDICATION

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## **What is generic medicine.**

A generic medicine is a medicine that contains the same active ingredients as a medicine that was originally protected by patents.

Generic medicines are allowed to be sold after the patents on the original medicines expire.

Generics are often cheaper than patented (branded) medicines.

Some medical schemes limit the maximum price they will pay to the cost of the cheapest generic or include only the generic products in their approved medicine lists (formularies).

## **How to find generic medicine**

### **1. Ask the doctor to prescribe a generic medicine for your treatment.**

The medical practitioner can look up the available generic medicines for your treatment and prescribe accordingly.

If the doctor does not know the name of a generic for your treatment s/he can write on the script “or generic” and the pharmacist will do the substitution.

This is the easiest way of obtaining generic medication for your treatment and will save you time and money.

Be aware that not all medicines have generic equivalents.

### **2. Ask the Pharmacist to substitute your prescribed medicine with the cheapest available product.**

The cheapest product is not always a generic.

The pharmacist can check the prices of available products that are on your scheme’s formulary.

There may even be patented medicines available that are cheaper than the ones prescribed by your doctor.

### **3. Search for your prescribed medicine on the Medicine Price Registry (MPR) website.**

<https://medicineprices.org.za/>

If you enter the name of your medicine in the “*Search for medicine*” box, a list of dosage and packaging sizes will appear.

Find the one prescribed by your doctor and then click on the “*Find Generics*” link.

If generics are available a list will be provided.

A great benefit of using this website is that it does not only provide lists of available generics but also the maximum prices for each product, including the one your doctor prescribed.

If you cannot find your medication on the MPR it is probably because it is available over the counter without a prescription.

If the medicine is available **without** a prescription, ask your pharmacist what it would cost if it was not on your prescription and get it over the counter if the cost is less and your medical scheme will still pay for it.

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## **How to find a generic of your medicine**

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