



# Generic Drugs Can Help Promote Health Equity

Health equity is achieved when all people can attain their full health potential. One significant way to promote health equity is access to high-quality, affordable medications required to manage a person's health needs.

Increasing access and addressing the high cost of medicines is a top priority of the Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and FDA. FDA's [Office of Generic Drugs](#) supports robust generic drug development, which can increase access to medications. This can improve health outcomes, lower health care costs for individuals and society, and reduce health disparities.



## Generic Drugs Can Improve Medication Adherence

By measuring medication adherence and its impact on health outcomes across different groups, health care providers and policymakers can identify and address the barriers and facilitators that affect medication-taking behavior and health equity. Studies demonstrate that medication nonadherence leads to worse clinical outcomes, lower quality of life, and higher health care costs, and costs the U.S. health care system an estimated \$300 billion per year.

A recent study showed that patients who were initiated on generic drugs were more likely to adhere to their medications compared with those initiated on brand drugs. Health policies that reduce out-of-pocket cost of medication could lead to better medication adherence, better health outcomes, and overall health equity.

## Generic Drugs Can Help Improve Access to Medication



The vision of FDA's [Office of Minority Health and Health Equity](#) is a world where health equity is a reality for all. FDA's Office of Generic Drugs supports this vision by increasing access to medications, which can improve health and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations and those with lower incomes.

Generic drugs can help make needed medications more affordable for the U.S. public. Competition helps make drugs more widely available and generally less expensive, allowing millions of patients to access needed medicines more easily.

The availability of generic drugs can help reduce the cost of health care for individuals and families and lead to increased access to medications.

Generic drugs can help stabilize the supply of medicines and reduce the risk of drug shortages. Efforts to improve access to generic drugs for racial and ethnic minority and other diverse populations aim to reduce health disparities and promote health care equity. Removing barriers to generic drug development and market entry helps consumers get access to the medicines they need at more affordable prices.

Learn more about generic drugs. Visit [www.FDA.gov/GenericDrugs](http://www.FDA.gov/GenericDrugs).