

Why am I getting generic mycophenolate mofetil?

Recently, Health Canada approved generic mycophenolate mofetil oral suspension for use in Canada. Research in Canada shows that generic mycophenolate mofetil oral suspension works the same way as the **brand-name** medicine (**CellCept[®] oral suspension**). The generic medicine is made with the same **high quality** manufacturing standards.

Generic mycophenolate mofetil oral suspension is as safe and works as well as **CellCept[®] oral suspension**, but it costs less.

For More Information

- Canadian Agency for Drug and Technologies in Health (CADTH): <https://www.cadth.ca/generic-drugs>
- Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/fact-sheets/access-to-generic-drugs.html>
- AHS Drug Stewardship Website: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/phm/Page17557.aspx> or scan the QR code



health information

Using Generic Medicine: Mycophenolate Mofetil Oral Suspension

What is a generic medicine?

A generic medicine is a type of medicine that is a copy of the **brand-name** medicine. Compared to the **brand-name** medicine, generic medicine:

- contains the same chemical that works in the body (the active ingredient)
- is safe and pure with the same quality
- comes in the same dose and strength
- is taken the same way
- works the same
- takes the same amount of time to work
- is used for the same reasons
- has the same risks and benefits

Is generic medicine as safe as brand-name medicine?

Yes. Health Canada reviews and approves all generic medicine. A generic medicine must work the same way as the **brand-name** medicine. It must be made with the same **high quality** manufacturing standards as the **brand-name** medicine.

What is the difference between generic and brand-name medicine?

Generic and **brand-name** medicine may have different:

- inactive ingredients (fillers), which are used for flavour or preservatives
- colours, shapes, or markings

Generic medicine is safe and works as well as **brand-name** medicine, but costs less.

Rarely, a person may have an allergy or not tolerate the inactive ingredients in a medicine. Check with your pharmacist before you take a medicine if you have allergies or intolerances to medicine ingredients (e.g., lactose, gluten, sulfites, tartrazine).

Why does generic medicine cost less?

Brand-name medicine is protected by patent when it's approved for sale in Canada. When the patent expires, other companies can copy the medicine.

Companies that make generic medicine don't have to invest a lot of time and money to discover the medicine. This lowers the price.

When there is more than one generic medicine company, the competition also helps lower the cost.

Why does medicine have two different names?

Brand names (also called trade names) are chosen by the company that first make the medicine. The **brand name** is protected by trademark and can only be used by that company. **Brand names** can sometimes change, depending on the country where the medicine is sold.

The generic name is the same as the name of the active ingredient and is always the same. It's a good idea to know the generic name of all your medicine. This will help you communicate with your healthcare provider to make sure you get the right medicine.