GENERIC MEDICATIONS & EPILEPSY

- Generic medications contain the same active ingredient in the same strength as the brand name medication.
- Small changes in pill shape, pill color and inactive ingredients may exist.
- Generic medications often offer cost savings versus brand medications.
- However, for some people with epilepsy, generics might not work as well as the branded medications. Rarely, this may result in loss of seizure control.
- You and your physician should make the decision if generics are right for you, but many insurance companies will not pay for brand medications, even if your doctor orders it.
  - Some companies require that you at least try generic medications first.
  - Your health care provider can appeal this decision, but cannot force your insurance company to cover brand only medication.
  - “Prior authorizations” and approvals for brand only medication take time, and it is ALWAYS better to take generic medication rather than nothing at all – Do NOT stop taking medication just because you cannot get brand name!
- It may be beneficial to take a generic from the same manufacturer, and your pharmacist can help you make sure that you consistently take a generic from the same manufacturer. Ask the pharmacist to write down the “NDC number” of each prescription you pick up.
- If your medication ever looks different, call your pharmacist
- If you have a loss of seizure control after switching to a generic, call your health care provider