MUSC Patient Handout
Generic Medications & Epilepsy

Changing What’s Possible in Health Care.
AS AN ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER, MUSC offers benefits to the residents of South Carolina and beyond. The highly dedicated, professional team focuses on providing the most effective therapies available while also striving to develop new therapies within a highly active basic and clinical research program. These efforts are backed by facilities with the latest technology. This resource was developed to help patients understand more about their condition, treatment, or procedure. This handout is meant to be used as a guide to supplement your healthcare providers instructions. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional medical care. Only your physician can diagnose and treat a medical condition. Please consult your physician if you have any questions.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
96 Jonathan Lucas Street
Suite 307 - MSC 606
Charleston SC, 29425
Telephone: 843.792.3223
Fax: 843.792.8626
Webpage: www.muschealth.com/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