



ASK YOUR PHARMACIST THIS

What are the brand and generic names of this medication?

Medication Names Overview

Medications are typically identified by two names: a brand (trade) name and a generic (nonproprietary) name. Understanding both names helps you recognize your medication, even if the label or manufacturer changes.

- **Brand Name:** The name given by the manufacturer (e.g., Ozempic®).
- **Generic Name:** The medication's standardized scientific name (e.g., semaglutide).
- **Alternative Brands:** Different brand products that contain the same active ingredient.
- **Alternative Generics:** The same medication manufactured by different companies.
- **Therapeutic Equivalents:** FDA-approved products expected to have the same clinical effect and safety profile.

Why Is This Question Important?

- ✓ Helps you identify your medication, even if the name on the bottle changes.
- ✓ Prevents confusion when different pharmacies or manufacturers use different names for the same medication.
- ✓ Helps you recognize duplicate therapies and avoid taking the same medication twice under different names.
- ✓ Allows you to better communicate with healthcare providers about your medications.
- ✓ Helps you understand medication substitutions when a brand or generic product is dispensed.

What You May Learn

Medication Identification

- Brand name(s)
- Generic name

Alternative Products

- Alternative brand products
- Alternative generic products
- Therapeutic equivalents

Medication Recognition

- Why the medication name may look different from previous refills
- How to identify the medication on future prescriptions or pharmacy records

Example

-  **Brand Name:** Ozempic®
-  **Generic Name:** Semaglutide

Key Takeaway

Knowing both the brand and generic names of your medication helps you avoid confusion, recognize substitutions, and stay informed about the medications you take.