

# Generic aciphex approved to treat chronic heartburn

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(HealthDay)—The first generic versions of the anti-GERD drug Aciphex (rabeprazole sodium) have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for people aged 12 and older, the agency said Friday.

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), also known as chronic heartburn, is a very common disorder characterized by backward flow of [stomach acid](#) to the esophagus. This process could damage tissue in the esophagus, the tube that connects the throat and stomach.

License to produce generic rabeprazole was granted to Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Kremers Urban Pharmaceuticals, Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Teva Pharmaceuticals and Torrent Pharmaceuticals, the FDA said.

The drug is among a class called proton-pump inhibitors, which are designed to reduce the amount of stomach acid produced. Generic drugs, the FDA stressed, are equivalent to the brand-name versions in strength and quality.

**More information:** To learn more about GERD, visit [Medline Plus](#).

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