

The active ingredient prescribing initiative aims to increase community understanding of active ingredients, promote uptake of generic and biosimilar medicines and contribute to a financially sustainable PBS.



- ▶ From **1 February 2021**, revised legislation will require medicines to be identified by active ingredient names on PBS/RPBS prescriptions.^{1,2}
- ▶ The revised legislation recognises that the inclusion of a brand name on a prescription, or the supply of a particular brand, may be deemed clinically appropriate by a prescriber in some cases, eg, to reduce risk of patient harm or minimise patient confusion.^{1,2} In these cases, the brand name will appear after the active ingredient name(s) on the prescription.

What do pharmacists need to know?



- ▶ Current pharmacy workflows or processes won't change.
- ▶ Continue to discuss generic medicine options with consumers wherever a prescriber has deemed substitution is permitted, whether or not a brand name is on the script. The inclusion of a brand on a prescription does not equate to “**Brand Substitution Not Permitted**” unless the box is ticked.
- ▶ Not all prescriptions will change. These medicines and prescribing situations are not covered by the revised legislation:
 - handwritten prescriptions
 - paper-based medication charts in residential aged care
 - medicines containing 4 or more active ingredients
 - medicinal and non-medicinal items listed on the List of Excluded Medicinal Items
 - prescriptions generated from prescribing software that utilises a free text function.

What will active ingredient prescribing look like at the pharmacy?



- As the revised legislation comes into effect, pharmacists are well placed to:
- ▶ explain to consumers why their prescriptions may have changed and discuss the benefits of active ingredient prescribing
 - ▶ continue to provide consumers with information about their brand options, and what their medicines will do for them.

✓ Improving medicine access while maintaining patient choice and safety

Pharmacists have always had a key role to play in supporting greater understanding of medicine ingredients among consumers.

Active ingredient prescribing



Supports medicine literacy by

- ▶ helping consumers find active ingredient information
- and**
- ▶ providing consistent communication so that individuals can make informed decisions about their medicines.



Encourages medication safety by

- ▶ reducing the risk of taking multiple doses of an active ingredient
- and**
- ▶ reducing likelihood of taking medicines that interact in an adverse way.



Provides continuity by

- ▶ ensuring the same information is delivered by different health professionals and across transitions of care
- and**
- ▶ aligning Australian prescribing practices with international standards.



Reduces out-of-pocket costs by

- ▶ educating individuals on safety and efficacy of generic and biosimilar medicines approved by the TGA as bioequivalent
- and**
- ▶ encouraging the use of these medicines.



Improves sustainability of the PBS by

- ▶ generating savings through the increase in generic medicine prescribing
- and**
- ▶ increasing funding available for new medicine and technology listings.

Find out more

PBS Active Ingredient Prescribing information and resources pbs.gov.au/info/general/active-ingredient-prescribing

NPS MedicineWise support materials nps.org.au/active-ingredient-prescribing

Send any questions about Active Ingredient Prescribing to aiprescribing@health.gov.au



References available online at: nps.org.au/aip-references

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