

Items Unsuitable for Generic Prescribing

September 2016

The following list provides examples of drugs / preparations which would NOT be recommended for generic prescribing. This list is guidance only and practices may wish to add other categories of their own depending on practice policy. For further information refer to the BNF or contact your Pharmacy Advisor. Please note: the list of brand names given as examples is *not exhaustive*. Please refer also to HSCB guidance on using specified brands that are cost effective choices for HSC

Medicine Category	Generic name / group	Examples	Comments
Drugs with a narrow therapeutic index	Aminophylline	Phyllocontin Continus [®]	There may be differences in the bioavailability of the preparations and / or the difference between therapeutic and toxic plasma concentrations. Therefore the brand name should be prescribed.
	Lithium	Priadel [®] , Camcolit [®] , Liskonum [®]	
	Theophylline	Nuelin SA [®] , Slo-Phyllin [®] , Uniphyllin Continus [®]	
Drugs with a narrow therapeutic index for certain indications, e.g. renal transplant	Ciclosporin	Neoral [®] , Sandimmun [®] Deximune [®]	
	Mycophenolate	CellCept [®] , Arzip [®] , Myfenax [®]	
	Tacrolimus	Prograf [®] , Advagraf [®]	
Anti-epileptic drugs Category 1	Phenytoin	Phenytoin Flynn hard capsules	Anti-epileptic drugs Category 1 Ensure the patient is maintained on a specific manufacturer's product Anti-epileptic drugs Category 2 *The need for continued supply of a particular manufacturer's product should be based on clinical judgement and consultation with patient / carer taking into account seizure frequency and treatment history. Anti-epileptic drugs Category 3 (Levetiracetam, Lacosamide, Tiagabine, Gabapentin, Pregabalin, Ethosuximide, Vigabatrin) It is usually unnecessary to ensure that patients are maintained on a specific manufacturer's product unless there are specific reasons such as patient anxiety and risk of confusion or dosing errors.
	Carbamazepine	Tegretol [®] , Carbagen [®] , Epimaz [®]	
	Phenobarbital	Prescribe generic name and state manufacturer	
	Primidone	Prescribe generic name and state manufacturer	
Anti-epileptic drugs Category 2 for some patients*	Valproate, Lamotrigine, Perampanel, Retigabine, Rufinamide, Clobazam, Clonazepam, Oxcarbazepine, Eslicarbazepine, Zonisamide, Topiramate		
Certain modified-release preparations	Diltiazem	Angitil XL [®] , Zemtard [®] , Slozem [®] , Adizem XL [®] , Tildiem LA [®]	The BNF states that brand names should be specified in certain instances as different versions of these modified-release (m/r) preparations may not have the same clinical effect.
	Mesalazine	Asacol MR [®] , Pentasa [®]	
	Nifedipine	Adipine MR or XL [®] , Coracten SR or XL [®] , Adalat Retard [®]	
	Methylphenidate	Concerta XL [®] , Equasym XL [®] , Medikinet XL [®]	
Certain Controlled Drugs including patches (Schedule 2 and 3)	Buprenorphine	Butec [®] , Butrans [®] , Transtec [®] , Bupeaze [®] , Hapoctasin [®]	Caution due to differing dosage regimes for SR and XL preparations. The BNF states that dosage should be reviewed if brand altered.
	Fentanyl (transdermal)	Mezolar [®] , Durogesic DTrans [®] , Fentalis [®] , Matrifen [®] , Tilofyl [®]	
	Morphine	MST [®] , MXL [®] , Zomorph [®] , Morphgesic SR [®] , Sevredol [®]	
	Oxycodone	Longtec [®] , Shortec [®] , Oxycontin [®] , Oxynorm [®]	
Certain inhaler devices	Beclometasone (+/- Formoterol)	Qvar [®] , Clenil [®] , Fostair [®]	Always state the type of device, e.g. accuhaler, turbohaler. This is to ensure that the patient continues to receive the device that they have been trained to use.
	Dry powder devices	Accuhaler [®] , Easyhaler [®] , Turbohaler [®] , Pulvinal [®] , Clickhaler [®] , Foradil [®]	
Multi-ingredient products	See examples →	Stalevo [®]	Generic prescribing may not be practical or may cause confusion due to multiple ingredients. Some combination products are appropriate for generic prescribing using an approved 'co-' prefix e.g. co-codamol, co-amilofruse, etc.
		Hormone replacement therapy	
		Oral contraceptives	
		Multi-ingredient GI preps. e.g. Peptac [®] , pancreatin, rehydration salts, laxatives etc.	
		Multi-ingredient ENT preparations	
		Creams, bath oils, antiseptics, liquids or gels	
Specific brands for specific indications	Duloxetine	Yentreve [®] or Cymbalta [®]	
	Denosumab	Prolia [®] or Xgeva [®]	
	Buprenorphine	Subutex [®] or Temgesic [®]	
Miscellaneous	See examples →	Antipsychotic depot injections	These should be prescribed using the brand name to avoid confusion / aid product identification. Generic prescribing for these drugs may affect clinical response or contribute to administration incidents.
		Stoma care products and appliances	
		Wound products	
		Insulin	
		Nutritional products	
		Vaccines	
		NRT	
		Calcium salts, e.g. Natecal D3 [®] , Adcal [®]	
		Pre-filled injectables – e.g. Adrenaline, somatropin, apomorphine, erythropoietin	
Vitamin D, e.g. Desunin [®] , Fultium-D3 [®] , InVita-D3 [®] , Pro-D3 [®] , Thorens [®]			