



GENERIC PRESCRIBING

In Northern Ireland

Key Patent Expiries in 2012.

Many prominent brand name medicines are due to go off-patent within 2012. The table below highlights the most important patent expiries this year.

Currently, over 65% of all medicines are supplied as generic medicines in Northern Ireland. The Medicines Management Team would like to be pro-active in ensuring that all appropriate patients are prescribed a generic product in advance of the patent expiry to maximise the savings to the Health Service.

Action for Practices:

Practices are encouraged to search for any patients on prescriptions for the branded products listed and convert over to the equivalent generic product.

KEY POINTS

- **DHSSPS Policy**—Generic medicines should be prescribed in preference to branded products in all appropriate circumstances irrespective of whether a generic medicines is currently available. This will ensure full utilisation of generic medicines when branded medicines come 'off-patent'.
- Practices should ensure generic medicines are prescribed in preference to branded products in all appropriate circumstances.
- **2012** - Many prominent brand name medicines are due to go off-patent within 2012. Practices are asked to prescribe all these medicines generically now so savings can be made as soon as the generic price drops.
- **Generic Prescribing remains the single most effective way to generate savings** for the Health Service.

Table 1. Recent & Expected Patent Expiries in 2012.

Generic		e.g. Brand		Generic Product Expected
Esomeprazole	➤	Nexium [®]	➤	Available now
Olanzapine	➤	Zyprexa [®]	➤	Available now
Valsartan	➤	Diovan [®]	➤	Available now
Donepezil	➤	Aricept [®]	➤	Available now
Galantamine	➤	Reminyl [®]	➤	Available now
Quetiapine	➤	Seroquel [®] (inc. XL)	➤	Available now
Naratriptan	➤	Naramig [®]	➤	Available now
Zolmitriptan	➤	Zomig [®]	➤	Available now
Latanoprost	➤	Xylantan [®] /Xalacom [®]	➤	Available now
Pioglitazone	➤	Actos [®]	➤	Available now
Eprosartan	➤	Teveten [®]	➤	April 12
Candesartan	➤	Amias [®]	➤	April 12
Atorvastatin	➤	Lipitor [®]	➤	May 12
Rivastigmine	➤	Exelon [®]	➤	July 12
Irbesartan	➤	Aprovel [®]	➤	Aug 12
Montelukast	➤	Singulair [®]	➤	Aug 12
Tolterodine	➤	Detrusitol [®]	➤	Sep 12

NB: The list of medicines that the HSCB recommends are not prescribed generically, can be found [here](#).