

Items Unsuitable for Generic Prescribing

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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 [SPPG pharmacy adviser](#). See the [Cost effective choices list](#) for guidance on using specified brands that are cost effective choices for HSC.

Medicine Category	Generic name / group	Examples (this list is not exhaustive)	Comments
Drugs with a narrow therapeutic index	Lithium	Priadel [®] , Camcolit [®] , Liskonum [®]	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.
	Theophylline	Uniphyllin Continus [®]	
	Ciclosporin	Neoral [®] , Sandimmun [®] , Deximune [®] , Capimune [®] , Capsorin [®]	Post-transplant, patients are initiated on generic mycophenolate mofetil. It is not necessary to provide a consistent brand of generic mycophenolate to post-transplant patients. See shared care guideline (SCG) .
	Oral tacrolimus	Prograf [®] , Advagraf [®] and Envarsus [®]	
Anti-epileptic drugs Category 1 (when used for epilepsy)	Phenytoin	Phenytoin Flynn hard capsules	Anti-epileptic drugs Category 1 Ensure the patient is maintained on a specific manufacturer's product
	Carbamazepine	Tegretol [®]	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.
	Phenobarbital	Prescribe generic name and state manufacturer	
	Primidone	Prescribe generic name and state manufacturer	
Anti-epileptic drugs Category 2 (when used for epilepsy) for some patients*	Valproate, lamotrigine, peramppanel, retigabine, rufinamide, clobazam, clonazepam, oxcarbazepine, eslicarbazepine, zonisamide, topiramate		Anti-epileptic drugs Category 3 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. Examples include levetiracetam, lacosamide, tiagabine, gabapentin, pregabalin, ethosuximide, vigabatrin.
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 preparations may not have the same clinical effect.
	Mesalazine	Octasa [®] , Asacol MR [®] , Pentasa [®]	
	Nifedipine	Adipine MR or XL [®] , Coracten SR or XL [®] , Adalat LA [®]	
	Methylphenidate	Concerta XL [®] , Delmosart [®] , Equasym XL [®] , Medikinet XL [®]	
Certain Controlled Drugs including patches (Schedule 2 and 3)	Buprenorphine	Butec [®] , Butrans [®] , Transtec [®] , Bupeaze [®] , Hapoctasin [®] , Espranor [®]	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 [®] , Kelhale [®] , Soprobe [®]	"Pressurised metered-doses inhalers with extra-fine particles (Qvar [®] and Kelhale [®]) are more potent than, and not interchangeable with, traditional CFC-containing and CFC-free inhalers (Clenil Modulite [®] and Soprobe [®])." Always state the brand and type of device e.g. Accuhaler [®] , Turbohaler [®] . It is essential that the patient continues to receive the device that they have been trained to use.
	Dry powder devices	Accuhaler [®] , Easyhaler [®] , Turbohaler [®] , Spiromax [®] , Ellipta [®]	
Insulins	Prescribe ALL insulins by brand name		The BNF states, "Insulins must be prescribed and dispensed by brand name. Show container to patient or carer and confirm the expected version is dispensed".
Certain Multi-ingredient products	Stalevo [®] , Sastravi [®] , Stanek [®] , Hormone replacement therapy; oral contraceptives; multi-ingredient GI preparations e.g. Peptac [®] , pancreatin, bowel cleansing solutions; multi-ingredient ENT preparations; certain Dermatology preparations, e.g. emollients, antiseptics.		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.
Specific brands for specific indications	Denosumab	Prolia [®] or Xgeva [®]	These should be prescribed using the brand name to avoid confusion / aid product identification.
	Budesonide (oral)	Budenofalk [®] , Cortiment [®] , or Entocort [®]	
	Buprenorphine	Subutex [®] or Temgesic [®]	
Biological and biosimilar medicines	Examples include: Alirocumab (Praluent [®]); Evolocumab (Repatha [®]); Enoxaparin (brands include Clexane [®] and Inhixa [®]); Etanercept (brands include Enbrel [®] , Erelzi [®]); Somatropin (brands include Genotropin [®] , Humatrope [®]) GLP-1 inhibitors (tablets and injectables)		Biosimilar medicines should be considered to be therapeutically equivalent to the originator biological medicine within their authorised indications. The choice of whether to prescribe a biosimilar medicine or the originator biological medicine rests with the clinician in consultation with the patient. Biological medicines (including biosimilar medicines) must be prescribed by brand name and the brand name specified on the prescription should be dispensed in order to avoid inadvertent switching. Automatic substitution of brands at the point of dispensing is not appropriate for biological medicines.
Miscellaneous	Antipsychotic depot injections; stoma care products and appliances; wound products; nutritional products including dysphagia products/thickeners; vaccines; NRT; pre-filled injectables, e.g. adrenaline, apomorphine, erythropoietin, LHRH analogues (e.g. Decapeptyl [®]); calcium salts, e.g. Adcal [®] ; vitamin D, e.g. InVita-D3 [®] ; levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine systems, e.g. Mirena [®] ; midazolam oromucosal solution, e.g. Buccolam [®] , Epistatus [®] , products that contain clobetasone or clobetasol.		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.