

Items Unsuitable for Generic Prescribing July 2021

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. **Exception: BHSCT and SHSCT renal transplant patients established on branded Cellcept® may be selected to switch to generic prescribing of mycophenolate mofetil on the specific advice of the specialist transplant team.
	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 (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 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	Tegreto®, Carbagen®, Epimaz®	
	Phenobarbital	Prescribe generic name and state manufacturer	
	Primidone	Prescribe generic name and state manufacturer	
Anti-epileptic drugs Category 2 for some patients* (when used for epilepsy)	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 preparations may not have the same clinical effect.
	Mesalazine	Octasa®, Asacol MR®, Pentasa®	
	Nifedipine	Adipine MR or XL®, Coracten SR or XL®, Adalat LA®	
	Methyphenidate	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®	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®, Spiromax®, Ellipta®	
Multi-ingredient products	Examples include: Stalevo®, Hormone replacement therapy; Oral contraceptives; Multi-ingredient GI preps., e.g. Peptac®, pancreatic, laxatives, etc.; Multi-ingredient ENT preparations; Dermatology preparations, e.g. creams, bath oils, antiseptics, liquids or gels; Bowel cleansing solutions.		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-amilorfruse, etc.
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®); Insulin glargine (brands include Abasaglar®, Lantus®); Insulin lispro (brands include Humalog®, Insulin lispro Sanofi®); Somatropin (brands include Genotropin®, Humatrope®)		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	Examples include: Antipsychotic depot injections; 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, LHRH analogues; Vitamin D, e.g. Desunin®, Fultium-D3®, InVita-D3®, Pro-D3®, Thorens®; Levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine systems, e.g. Mirena®, Levosert®; Midazolam oromucosal solution, e.g. Buccolam®, Epistatus®		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.