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Enquiries to Pharmacist/GP

Dear Patient,

Use of Generic (unbranded) Medicines across NHS Grampian: How it affects you

As you are probably aware, it is becoming increasingly important that the NHS prescribes medication as efficiently as possible without, of course, compromising on the quality of care we provide to patients.

In NHS Grampian we have asked GPs to ensure that all patients are prescribed generic medicines unless there is a medical reason for prescribing a branded version.

Branded versions cost significantly more than generic (unbranded) medicines. Generic medicines are the same high quality as branded versions and are subject to the same strict controls in terms of manufacturing and safety.

Generic medicines are made by different companies, therefore they may differ from their branded counterpart in size, shape, colour and sometimes taste but they contain exactly the same drug.

If for any medical reason it is important that you receive a specific brand, your GP will not change it to a generic one. However, if there is no medical reason for prescribing the branded version you will receive the generic one in line with NHS Grampian policy from now on. If the generic medicine is not working for you your GP will review this and may consider an alternative medicine, the branded medicine will not be prescribed.

If you have any questions or concerns about this switch then please speak to your pharmacist or your doctor. Please remember that they are being required to help with this switch from expensive branded versions to less expensive unbranded medicines.

Finally, thank you for supporting NHS Grampian in making the best use of the public monies we receive to provide healthcare to you, your family and community.

Yours sincerely



David Pflieger
Director of Pharmacy



Dr Nick Fluck
Medical Director