

Premium Priced Generics – “Ghost Generics”

Clinicians are encouraged to prescribe medicines by their generic name where possible and clinically appropriate. However, practice IT systems list not only the generic name but also offer alternatives where the generic name is followed by the manufacturer e.g. *Amlodipine 10mg tabs TEVA*.

If the generic option stating the manufacturer is selected this product must be dispensed and the item is treated by NHSBSA as a “brand”; the price reimbursed is not the Drug Tariff price for that item but the manufacturer’s list price which can be significantly higher than the category A or M Drug Tariff price paid for the generic product.

For the vast majority of patients the Premium/Ghost Generic will have been selected inadvertently at the point of prescribing, rather than due to allergy/patient preference.

With the above information in mind, potential savings have been identified for your practice if the items below were switched to the generic product. Therefore please arrange for these items to be reviewed by the surgery or give permission for a member of the MMO Team to perform the reviews and carry out this minor switch (where appropriate).

Process outline:

- *Perform search to identify patients prescribed the specified Premium/Ghost Generic medication on a current repeat prescription.*
- *Review each patient’s record to establish if they have a relevant allergy or if another reason has been documented to explain the need for this specific medication.*
- *Where no rationale can be identified, switch the Premium Generic item to the generic product.*
- *Add a record of the switch and suitable read code e.g. “Medication switched to the generic preparation following review as clinical need for a specific manufacturer has not been documented/identified. Switched authorised by.....”*

The drug, form, strength, directions, quantity supplied and review date will all remain the same after this switch.

Practice:		
Prescribed Medication and Manufacturer	No. of Items/month	Savings/month if switched to generic

Next steps:

Activity	Tick	Authorisation approved by: (name and signature)	Date
The Practice Team will review these patients and inform the MMO Team of the number of patients switched to the generic in each case			
Authorisation is given for a member of the MMO Team to review these patients and switch them as appropriate			
We confirm patients do not need to be contacted about any changes			

Contact details: