

Why are you recommending that branded medicines are not prescribed in Sheffield?

Unless there is a specific clinical reason not to, we are asking GPs to prescribe generic medicines rather than the more expensive branded products. This is because they both have the same clinical effect for patients but branded medicines can be up to 56 times more expensive.

Why is the medicine a different colour or shape to my usual brand?

The colour, size or shape of a medicine may change depending on which company makes it or it may come in a different format. However, the generic medicine will have the same active ingredient as your usual brand and have the same effect.

What do I do if I have any concerns?

If you have any concerns or questions about this change you can contact the NHS Sheffield CCG Complaints Team on SHECCG.complaints@nhs.net or Complaints Team, NHS Sheffield CCG, 722 Prince of Wales Road, Sheffield S9 4EU

Did you know...

- *In Sheffield, over 1 million prescriptions are dispensed every month,*
- *13% of our budget is spent on prescribing by GPs, which amounts to over £97 million each year.*

If you need this leaflet in a different language, audio, large print or braille please contact us on sheccg.comms@nhs.net or 0114 305 1212.

www.sheffieldccg.nhs.uk

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Why your doctor may not prescribe your usual medicines.



Working with you to make Sheffield

H E A L T H I E R

NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for buying health services on behalf of people in Sheffield, including medicines provided on prescription.

We need to make sure we get the best value for NHS resources and that patients get the most effective care and treatment.

In Sheffield, we currently spend over £3 million a year on medicines that are widely available to buy over-the-counter without a prescription and a further £300,000 on expensive branded medicines where a non-branded product would have been available at a much lower cost.

We are therefore asking GPs not to prescribe a number of products on the NHS. This is for products that have been shown to offer limited health benefits or that can be purchased at a relatively low cost in pharmacies and supermarkets (eg cough and cold remedies). We are also asking GPs to prescribe generic (non-branded) medicines rather than the more expensive branded versions.

These changes will save your local NHS money, which can be spent on drugs and treatments that have much more impact on people's health.

Why is my medicine no longer recommended for supply on the NHS?

Guidelines on medication are continually being reviewed and updated to take account of the latest evidence. It might be that the medicine you used to take is no longer recommended for prescription or that it has been found to have limited clinical benefit.

It could also be because there is a better value alternative medicine that would have the same effect, or that your medicine can be bought over the counter rather than having to be prescribed.

Why am I being asked to buy medicines over the counter instead of getting them on prescription?

The best way to manage many minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, fever, aches and pains is treating the symptoms yourself as quickly as possible. Medicines for these conditions are widely available at low cost in pharmacies and supermarkets but are much more expensive when provided on an NHS prescription.

Your local pharmacist can give you advice on lots of minor conditions and what the best treatment is.

How much will these products cost?

Most of these products are widely available at a relatively low cost.

Where can I get advice on the best products to buy?

Your local community pharmacist will be able to advise you on the best product to meet your specific needs. You can also find general health advice on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk

I use one of these products for a long-term condition, what does this mean for me?

In exceptional circumstances, some people may continue to receive these products on prescription because they have a particular long-term health condition or have been prescribed products on the recommendation of a hospital specialist. Your GP will be able to advise if this applies to you.

What is the difference between branded and generic medicines?

All medicines have a generic name, based on the active ingredient in it. Branded medicines are the version named by the company that originally developed it. Both versions have the same active ingredients and the same clinical effect. All generic medicines are subject to the same detailed safety and quality requirements as the original branded product