

## **Medicines Optimisation Position Statement**

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| Position Statement                   | <b>Prescribing of generic and branded medicines</b>  |
| Position Statement number            | 003 (2017)   |
| Date of issue:                       | March 2017   |
| Date approved by Clinical Executive: | 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2017   |
| Date of review:                      | September 2017<br>(Unless new published evidence becomes available before this date OR there is new published national guidance) |

In light of the obligation for the NHS to meet national NHS priorities and the requirement for NHS organisations to manage within the resources available, the CCG gives the highest priority to those treatments that are known to be most cost effective at improving health and a lower priority to those treatments for which the cost is high and the evidence for health improvement is low.

Prescribing generically is less expensive than prescribing by brand for certain medicines. Generic equivalents contain exactly the same active ingredient and are made to the same standards as the branded version.

The CCG recommends that medicines should be prescribed generically in line with BNF Guidance on Prescribing, <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/formulary/bnf/current/guidance-on-prescribing/general-guidance>, which states that '*Where non-proprietary ('generic') titles are given, they should be used in prescribing.*'

Exceptions to this include:

- Where there is a difference in bioavailability
- Where modified release preparations are not interchangeable
- Where products contain more than one ingredient and to avoid confusion e.g oral contraceptives, inhalers
- Where there are important differences in formulation e.g fentanyl patches
- Where devices have different instructions e.g adrenaline pre-filled pens
- Where the product is a biological e.g biosimilar insulins

- Where the cost of the generic product is considered to be disproportionately excessive, in which case the CCG Medicines Optimisation Board will recommend a suitable branded version

The following branded medicines particularly should be prescribed generically unless there is evidence of an individual patient need such as an allergy to the generic equivalent because in doing so would realise the biggest savings:

Azopt® Eye Drops

Cosopt® Ocumeter Plus Eye Drops

Xalatan® Eye Drops

Nasonex® Aq Nasal Spray

Viagra®

Lipitor®

Xalacom® Eye Drops

Imigran®

Aricept®

Nexium®

Losec®

Lustral®

Abilify®

#### NOTES:

- This policy will be reviewed in six months in the light of new evidence e.g NHS Drug Tariff changes, patent expiries or new national guidance e.g. from NICE.