



Pharmacists Board of Queensland

## Guideline

### Generic Substitution

The patient's health outcome should be the pharmacist's prime consideration in any brand substitution decision. A decision to substitute one brand for another should not place the patient at risk and should not be undertaken without consultation with the patient or carer.

Just as importantly, pharmacists should be consistent with the selection of brands for patients on long-term therapy in order to avoid patient confusion. During the investigation of some complaints, the Board has become aware of many cases where patients had received a number of different generic brands of a particular medicine, even when using the same pharmacy. The practice of randomly changing brands of those medicines where brand substitution has been authorised is not recommended by the Board as such practice can lead to confusion by the patient. Every effort should be made by the dispensing pharmacist to ensure that the patient receives a consistent brand of medicine, even if the patient is using a number of pharmacies.

In all cases where the brand of medicine is changed the pharmacist **must** discuss the change with the patient or carer.