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Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

CHANGES TO YOUR PRESCRIPTION

What are we doing?

Powys Teaching Health Board is working with your doctor's surgery to review prescribing of expensive, branded medicines. It is important that all medicines prescribed are cost-effective and evidence based.

The health board has been asked to stop prescriptions for expensive, branded medicines and switch patients onto more cost-effective generic alternatives where available.

What is the difference between a branded and generic medicine?

Branded

- Usually the first product on the market
- The marketing name chosen by the manufacturer which is often easier to pronounce and remember than the drug name
- Usually more expensive to prescribe

Generic

- Name of the active ingredient in the medicine
- Subject to the same strict quality standards
- No brand name or trademark
- Better value for the NHS



Why are we doing this?

Medicines continue to represent one of the biggest areas of NHS expenditure in Wales. Last year, the cost of medicines prescribed by GPs in Powys exceeded £31 million. It is important that we are getting the best value for money for the NHS and our patients so that we can help preserve crucial NHS services within Powys.

What does this mean for you?

No difference! If your medication has been switched then nothing other than the box and shape or colour of your medication will change. The active ingredients will **not** change between products.



For more information on branded and generic medicines, please go to <https://pthb.nhs.wales/services/pharmacy-and-medicines-management/public/brand-to-generic-medication-information/> or use the QR code:

