



## Active Ingredient Prescribing – Best Practice Software

### What is Active Ingredient Prescribing?

The Department of Health has changed legislation so that Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Repatriation PBS (RPBS) medicines must be prescribed using the active ingredient names, instead of the brand name of a medicine. Active Ingredient Prescribing will become mandatory from 1 February 2021.

### Why is this change happening?

The goal of this initiative is to help people understand what medicines they are taking and to reduce the risk of people accidentally taking multiple doses of the same medicine under different names. Other benefits include allowing pharmacists to easily dispense an alternative generic medicine if the patient's usual brand is unavailable and a potential reduction in out-of-pocket costs to patients and the PBS via increased uptake of generic medicines.

### Are there any exceptions?

Yes, some exceptions to Active Ingredient Prescribing include:

- Handwritten prescriptions.
- Paper-based medication charts in residential aged care settings.
- Medicines with four or more active ingredients.
- Non-medicinal items which don't have active ingredients (e.g., dressings, nutritional products).

### Will this change my prescribing workflow?

From a prescriber's perspective, there may be some changes to workflow in Best Practice. When prescribing a new medication, you can still search by brand name or active ingredient.

### Prescribing a new medication by active ingredient name

If there is no clinical need for the patient to be on a particular brand of medication, you can search and select the drug by the active ingredient name. The options to "Print brand name on scripts" and "Allow brand substitution" will not be selectable as you have chosen to prescribe a generic medication.

### Prescribing a new medication by brand name

If you wish the patient to have a specific brand, then you check the "Print brand name on scripts" check box and un-check the "Allow brand substitution" check box.

### Providing a prescription for a patient's existing medication by active ingredient

This scenario should not change the workflow of the doctor as the active ingredient will be printed

**Practices are advised to contact their IT Provider to ensure their software and all GP workstations are upgraded by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

### References:

RACGP: [www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/technology/clinical-technology/active-ingredient-prescribing](http://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/technology/clinical-technology/active-ingredient-prescribing)

Best Practice: <https://bpssoftware.net/active-ingredient-prescribing/>