



# Why your Prescription may look different

## Active Ingredient Prescribing

From 1 February 2021 PBS and RPBS prescriptions need to include information about the active ingredients in each medicine.

Most medicines have two different names – an active ingredient and a brand name. The goal of this government 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.

Pharmacists can also easily dispense an alternative generic medicine if the patient's usual brand is unavailable and it is a potentially cheaper cost to patients who choose generic medicines.

You will only be offered a generic brand of a prescription medicine if it is proven to be bioequivalent to the original brand.

People with certain conditions may be advised to stick with their original prescribed brand. If your doctor ticks the 'Brand substitution not permitted' box on the prescription, the pharmacist will know not to offer you an alternative brand. You can also request your usual brand if you don't want to change.

The doctors at NewHope Medical are here to answer your questions and to assist you with your health matters. Please call 9066 1145 for appointments.

More information on AIP - <https://www.nps.org.au/consumers/active-ingredient-prescribing-all-you-need-to-know#what-is-active-ingredient-prescribing?>