

Important information about your anti-epileptic medication: staying on the same manufacturer's medication

Background

Recently, the Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA) issued new guidance on prescribing anti-epileptic medicines to treat epilepsy and seizures. This guidance is to help doctors and pharmacists decide if you need medication from the same anti-epileptic manufacturer. However, there are a number of anti-epileptic medicines for treating epilepsy and seizures that are quite safe to change between different manufacturers.

For more information see

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/dsu/documents/publication/con336730.pdf>

Will this affect me?

Your GP or community pharmacy may discuss this with you. They will either decide that:

- Your medication needs to be from the same anti-epileptic manufacturer. In this case, your doctor will add "**Maintain on same manufacturer's product**" to your anti-epileptic medication prescription. This means that your pharmacist knows that your medication should be from the same manufacturer.

Or

- Due to your individual circumstances and type of anti-epileptic medication you do not need to use the same manufacturer.

There is no need for you to worry and you should continue to take your anti-epileptic medication as usual. If you have any question or concerns you or your carer should speak to your GP or community pharmacist

Advice:

- If you need to go into the hospital you should take all your anti-epileptic medication in with you
- It is a good idea to write down the name of your anti-epileptic medication and the manufacturer
- If you think that your pharmacist has given you a different anti-epileptic drug or if the packaging or the medicine looks different from the one that you usually take, check with the pharmacist to make sure it is ok.
- We would recommend that, if possible, you keep using the same pharmacy

If you have any questions or are unclear about anything in this leaflet please contact your GP surgery or pharmacy.