



# Medicines Have Not Changed – Just the names of some active ingredients



Australian Government  
Department of Health

Some active ingredient names used in Australia differ from those used internationally. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated over 200 active ingredient names used in Australia as part of their International Harmonisation of Ingredient Names (IHIN) reform. A full list is available on the TGA website at [www.tga.gov.au/Updating-Medicine-Ingredient-Names-List-Affected-Ingredients](http://www.tga.gov.au/Updating-Medicine-Ingredient-Names-List-Affected-Ingredients). The active ingredient name changes you will see most commonly in your pharmacy are listed in the table over the page. Note that some active ingredient name changes will see **both** the old and new names used on labels ('dual labelled') until 2023.

## When will I see these changes?

While your dispensing software is expected to feature the new active ingredient names from July 2017, manufacturers have until 2020 to reflect the updated active ingredient name on medicine packaging, and in supporting documents like Consumer Medicine Information (CMI). This means that, for a period of time, your dispensing labels may feature the updated active ingredient name while the medicine package and/or CMI may retain the previous active ingredient name.

## What do I need to do?

In order to minimise unintended consequences of the labelling reforms to patients (e.g. patient confusion resulting in double dosing, missed doses etc.) when dispensing medicines that are affected by these changes, you should discuss the change with your patients, reassuring them that only the name of the active ingredient has changed. The medicine, brand name (if applicable) and the medicine's effect have not changed.

## Are there any changes to PBS claiming arrangements?

No, these name changes will not result in any change to PBS claiming arrangements.

## What do I do if I receive a prescription written using the old active ingredient name?

The prescription should be dispensed using the new active ingredient name.

## Examples of possible inconsistencies between medicine package and dispensing labels

### Example 1 – NON-DUAL LABELLED MEDICINE

medicine package – name has not changed

dispensing label – new name featured

**PRESCRIPTION ONLY  
MEDICINE**

Brand Name  
Hexamine Hippurate 500mg  
tablets

ABC Pharmaceuticals  
Health Pty Ltd

Suppliers have until 2020 to change the active ingredient name on their packaging

**Brand Name 500mg Tablets**

(Methenamine Hippurate)

Take TWO tablets TWICE daily.

First name LAST NAME \$0.00

12345678 AB Full cost \$14.90

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

XYZ Pharmacy

4 Smith Street, SYDNEY, 6161 0000

Dispensing labels will show the new active ingredient name from 2017.

### Example 2 – DUAL LABELLED MEDICINE

medicine package - name has not changed

dispensing label – new name featured

**PRESCRIPTION ONLY  
MEDICINE**

Brand Name  
Frusemide 40mg  
tablets

ABC Pharmaceuticals  
Health Pty Ltd

**Brand Name 40mg Tablets**

(Furosemide (Frusemide))

Take ONE tablet in the morning.

First name LAST NAME \$0.00

12345678 AB Full cost \$14.90

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN**

XYZ Pharmacy

4 Smith Street, SYDNEY, 6161 0000

Medicine labels with dual labelling will appear like this until 2023, when only the new name will feature.



TGA Change description	Previous active ingredient name	Updated active ingredient name
DUAL LABELLING UNTIL 2023	amphotericin	amphotericin B (amphotericin)
	benzhexol hydrochloride	trihexyphenidyl (benzhexol) hydrochloride
	dothiepin hydrochloride	dosulepin (dothiepin) hydrochloride
	doxycycline hydrochloride	doxycycline hyclate (hydrochloride)
	eformoterol	formoterol (eformoterol)
	frusemide	furosemide (frusemide)
	glycopyrrolate	glycopyrronium bromide (glycopyrrolate)
	hydroxyurea	hydroxycarbamide (hydroxyurea)
	lignocaine	lidocaine (lignocaine)
	phenobarbitone	phenobarbital (phenobarbitone)
	procaine penicillin	procaine benzylpenicillin (procaine penicillin)
	salcatonin	calcitonin salmon (salcatonin)
	tetracosactrin	tetracosactide (tetracosactrin)
SIGNIFICANT CHANGE (NO DUAL LABELLING)	hexamine hippurate	methenamine hippurate
	hydroxyquinoline sulfate	oxyquinoline sulfate
	insulin – human	insulin
	thyroxine sodium	levothyroxine sodium
MINOR SPELLING CHANGE	amoxicillin	amoxicillin
	beclomethasone dipropionate	beclometasone dipropionate
	cephalexin	cefalexin monohydrate
	cephalothin sodium	cefalotin sodium
	cephazolin	cefazolin
	chlorthalidone	chlortalidone
	cholestyramine	colestyramine
	clomiphene citrate	clomifene citrate
	cyclosporin	ciclosporin
	dexamphetamine sulfate	dexamfetamine sulfate
	ethacrynic acid	etacrynic acid
	ethinyloestradiol	ethinylestradiol
	flupenthixol decanoate	flupentixol decanoate
	indomethacin	indometacin
	oestradiol	estradiol
	oestriol	estriol
	pericyazine	periciazine
thioguanine	tioguanine	



FROM NOW	2020	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names affected by the TGA changes will change in prescribing and dispensing software.</li> <li>Some medicines will be dual labelled, with the old name appearing in brackets after the new name until 2023.</li> <li>Adrenaline products will be permanently dual labelled as Adrenaline (Epinephrine).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicine labelling, packaging and product information must reflect the new ingredient names.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary dual labelling will cease for about twenty medicines, with only the new ingredient names being shown on the label.</li> </ul>