

## What do I need to know about **Active Ingredient Prescribing?** (AIP)

There are some new digital innovations for scripts. They should make it easier to keep track of medicines from a phone, tablet or computer. They will help patients, pharmacies, doctors and the ACCHO health team make sure everyone gets the right medicine when needed. You can use this information to educate your team and community.

### For Health Professionals

- Active Ingredient Prescribing (AIP) has been introduced to increase consumer literacy, standardise prescribing language and promote safer use of medicines.
- Changes to prescribing software will facilitate script preparation.
- The active ingredient/s will appear first on script and medication labels.
- Brand names can be selected to appear after the active ingredient, if prescribers believe it necessary.
- Handwritten scripts, items with more than 4 active ingredients and other items (e.g. insulins) can be granted an exemption for safety reasons.



### For Community

- Active ingredients are the ingredients in medicines that have an effect in the body. Examples include paracetamol and insulin.
- Your health team will increasingly be using the names of the active ingredients in your medicines, rather than the brand names.
- Knowing the active ingredient helps you understand your medicine and reduces the risk of taking multiple doses of the same medicine.
- Active ingredient prescribing will help you get the best price, while making sure you get the correct medicine.
- All brands in Australia are tested by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to make sure they are safe and have the same effect.
- You can still choose your brand at the pharmacy unless your doctor has marked your script 'substitution not permitted' or if you get medicines through the remote area S100 scheme.

To find out more visit:

[www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/active-ingredient-prescribing](http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/active-ingredient-prescribing)