



Meeting the global challenge of unique identification of medicinal products

Dispensation of medical products in cross-border healthcare – the substitution challenge –

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Type of prescription – paper or ePrescription (n = 25 EU member states)

Electronic prescriptions (transferred electronically to the pharmacy) are not in general use	11 countries
Less than 10% of all prescriptions are electronic prescriptions	3 countries
More than 50 % are ePrescriptions	11 countries

Source: openMedicine survey 2016



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Prescribing options across EU member states (n = 25)

Specification of medicinal product (MP)*	Permitted/an option	Not permitted/not available
Originator (given) brand name	23	2
Common plus company name (generic brand name)	20	5
INN (or ATC – common name = active substance only)	17	8
Country-specific subset of medicinal products (clusters)	4	21

* plus additional attributes like pharmaceutical form, strength, route of administration , quantity etc. as needed

Source: openMedicine survey 2016



Defining substitution

The action of replacing a medicinal product, univocally specified in a prescription including the quantity to be dispensed, by another medicinal product which differs with regard to one or several of the attributes identifying precisely the one the prescriber noted for dispensation