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Dear staff,

As a GP of ~38 years, I have noticed increasing confusion related to labelling of medications, by patients, carers, pharmacy staff and doctors, and of course there has been a significant increase in the number of brands available.

There are **several reasons** for my suggestions including:

1. trade names are much more obvious than the scientific name on labels
2. patient aids such as Webster packs have the same problem, and this is exacerbated by changes in favoured brand by Pharmacists, and hence carers/patients are confused when changes in tablet shape and name- it is so easy to think that a medication change has been made, and not realise that it is just a brand change.
3. requests by Pharmacists to doctors for repeats make the same mistake (or no mention of scientific name at all) and it can be very wasteful of time and very annoying trying to keep track of unilateral changes in brands of medications.

(I would explain that Webster Packs and similar are increasingly used for mobile and quite capable patients – promoted by pharmacists to patients, so the Webster pack issue is much more widespread than just Nursing Homes.)

My **suggestions** are:

1. All labels on prescribed medications must print the scientific name in bolder and larger print than the trade name.
2. All patient aids such as Webster packs should print the scientific name in bolder and larger print than the trade name.
3. All pharmacy requests to doctors for repeat medications such as Webster packs (or out-of-date repeats) should print the scientific name in bolder and larger print than the trade name.

It should be noted that the scientific name can often be safely abbreviated – eg perindopril (8mg or 10 mg) is adequate, rather than having the full the scientific name

Yours faithfully/ Yours sincerely/ With kind regards,
(Dr) John Jackson