

Prince of Wales Hospital
Community Health Service
Catherine Hayes Building
High St
Randwick NSW 2031

Dear review committee,

Thank you for inviting comments on the medicine and labelling review.

I think the recommended changes will contribute to medicine safety and agree with the proposals, but add the following comments:

Active ingredient name:

The active ingredient name should be the same size or larger, in bold type, sentence style and at least font size 14 and preferably in black on a pale background for people with low vision. The active ingredient name should be above the brand name and should be clearly visible. Some generic brand labels at present have the active ingredient in bold, large font size, but with the name of the manufacturer adjacent. This can be very confusing for older consumers, who often struggle to match up their medicines, either because a different brand has been dispensed or because they have been discharged from hospital where the active ingredient name is used for labelling. Many older people do not know the difference between the paracetamol containing products.

Blister strip packaging:

The medicine information should be repeated on every unit. Many people cut their strips into single units.

Suggest that the race-track format should be restricted to oral contraceptives only. Any blister strip" medicines that older people take need to have each unit labelled.

Small containers:

Eye/ear drops/ointments to have Date opened.... after the discard 4 weeks after opening, as many people do not open the container on the day of dispensing.

Vaccines:

Active ingredient name needs to be prominent.

Pack inserts

Standardise the font size to 12 or 14.

Thank you,

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