

Patient Advocacy & switching to generics

Venita Hardweir

HIV Pharmacist

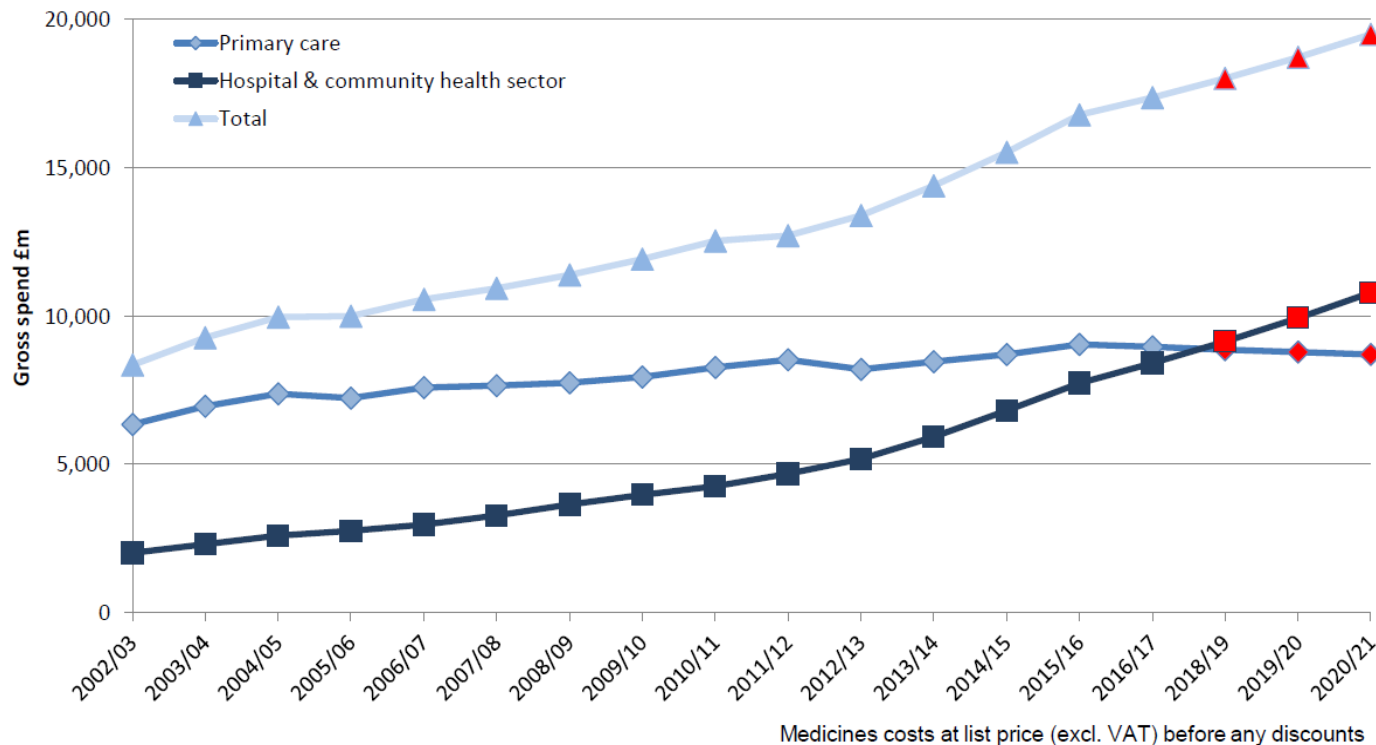
NHIVNA Conference, Brighton, June 2018

Disclosures

- Educational grants from ViiV, Janssen and Gilead

There is growing pressure on the NHS drugs bill

Due to people living longer, more complex and innovative medicines being developed, and more specialist medicines being used



- Overall medicines spend 2016/17 was £17.4bn, an increase of 33.7% from £13bn in 2010/11
- Cost of medicines prescribed and dispensed in primary care rose from £8.6bn in 2010/11 to £9.0bn in 2016/17, a rise of 3.6%
- Cost of medicines used in hospitals increased from £4.2bn in 2010/11 to £8.3bn in 2016/17, a rise of 98.3%

Generics



- Exactly the same active ingredient and yields the same therapeutic effect
- Developed for marketing once the period of 'exclusivity' on the branded version has expired
- Any differences are limited to inactive ingredients, e.g. colouring, flavouring, and stabilizing agents

The Media

Is your pharmacist fobbing you off with cheap copies of branded drugs?

By [JEROME BURNE FOR MAILONLINE](#)

UPDATED: 00:38, 14 April 2010

**Viagra goes generic:
Pfizer to launch own little
white pill**

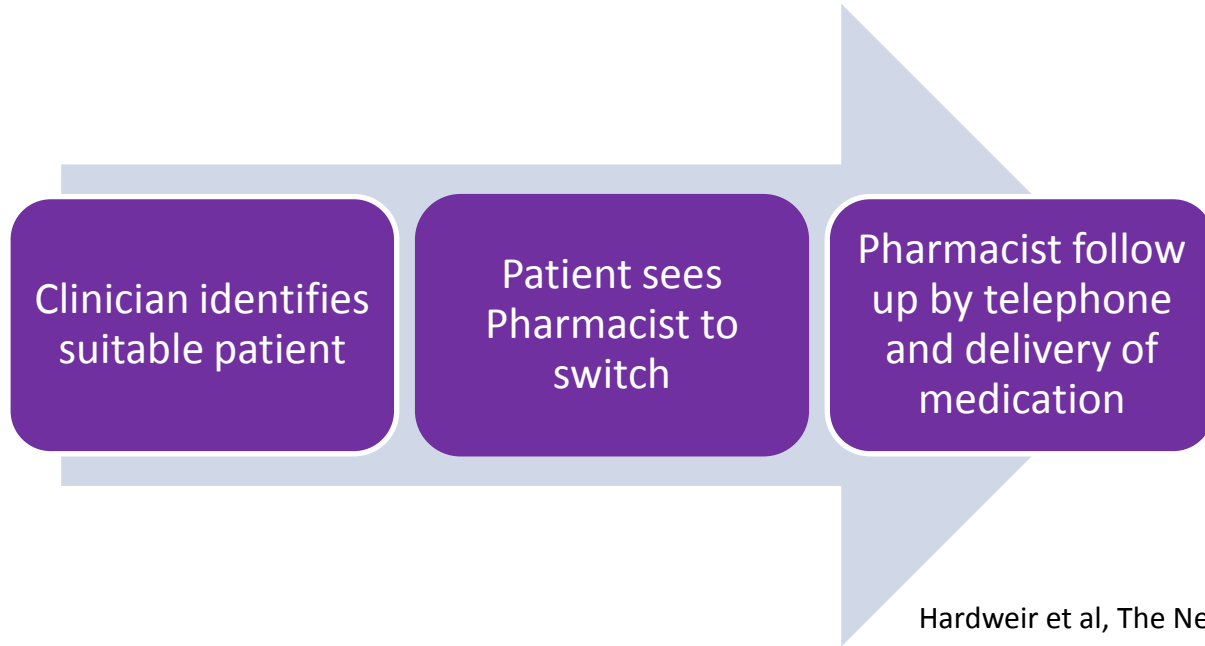
By [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

PUBLISHED: 19:31, 6 December
2017 | **UPDATED:** 19:31, 6 December
2017

**How being switched to
cheaper drugs could put you
at risk** By [JO WATERS](#)

PUBLISHED: 02:08, 1 July
2014 | **UPDATED:** 08:30, 1 July 2014

Brighton Method



Hardweir et al, The Next Generation, BHIVA 2017.

Results: savings by switch

| Switch | 2016/17 saving |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Branded to generic abacavir/lamivudine | £6,946,811 |
| Branded to generic nevirapine-PR | £722,022 |
| Branded tenofovir-DF/emtricitabine/efavirenz FDC to branded tenofovir-DF/emtricitabine FDC + generic efavirenz (1 to 2 pills) | £1,131,212 |
| Darunavir + ritonavir to darunavir/cobicistat FDC | £752,172 |
| Atazanavir + ritonavir to atazanavir/cobicistat FDC | £240,404 |
| TOTAL | £9,792,621 |

Waters L et al, Was the pain worth the gain? BASHH/BHIVA April 2018

£8,800,045 savings from switching to generics

However....

- Switches from Atripla[®] to Tenofovir DF + generic lamivudine + generic efavirenz were **not** included as part of the national switch data 2016/17

Savings 2017/18

| Switched from | Switched to | Savings per patient per month (£) | Number of patients | Total Saving per month (£) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Atripla® | gTDF/g3TC/gEFV | 365.56 | 47 | 17181.32 |
| Atripla® | TVA/gEFV (Improving Value switch) | 63.10 | 17 | 1072.70 |
| Total | | | 64 | 18254.02 |

Updated figures from *Hardweir V et al, The Next Generation, BHIVA 2017.*



Estimated full year savings of £219,000

Problems...

Discontinuations (53/117)

gTDF/g3TC/gEFV

| Reported Reasons for switching | No of patients gTDF/g3TC/gEFV = 39 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sleep Disturbance | 11 |
| Worsening low mood | 10 |
| Drowsiness | 6 |
| Other | 6 |
| Headache | 3 |
| Worried about potential side-effects | 2 |
| Pill burden | 2 |
| Diarrhoea | 1 |
| Nausea | 0 |
| Virologic failure | 0 |

TVA/gEFV

| Reported Reasons for switching | No of patients TVA/gEFV = 14 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sleep disturbance | 5 |
| Worsening low mood | 2 |
| Drowsiness | 3 |
| Other | 3 |
| Headache | 0 |
| Worried about potential side-effects | 0 |
| Pill burden | 0 |
| Diarrhoea | 1 |
| Nausea | 0 |
| Virologic failure | 0 |

n.b. Some patients reported >1 side-effect

More Research is needed!

- Patients were exposed to different brands of generics
 - Different excipients?
 - Side-effects due to different salts of the active ingredients?
 - Are patients being exposed to more of the active ingredient?
 - Psychological factors?
- Tablets look different for every manufacturer
 - Polypharmacy
 - Elderly patients
 - Patients with vision impairment



One brand, One price?



image: express.co.uk



Image: express.co.uk

Price increase from \$13.50 to \$750 a tablet

‘We are experiencing more stock outs than in Sub-Saharan Africa’

Clinical Nurse Specialist, 2016

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Patients hit by shortage of drugs as prices soar

Mental illness and cancer sufferers forced to wait

Billy Kenber, Investigations Reporter |
Chris Smyth, Health Editor

December 7 2017, 5:00pm,
The Times

NHS

Health

Charity



Shortages of at least 100 drugs have forced NHS officials to approve temporary price rises
PAUL ROGERS FOR THE TIMES

Spending on shortages of generics rose sevenfold last year to £315m

BMJ 2018;361:k2581

Medicines Shortages (April 2018)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Clexane (enoxaparin) injection | Nabilone tablets | Quetiapine tablets | Depocyte injection |
| Pip/taz injection | Pregabalin tablets | Hysoscine hydrobromide tablets | Tinidazole 500mg tablets |
| Ceftazidime injection | Levetiracetam tablets | Hypurin Bovine Insulin | (brand Fasign) |
| Amikacin Injection | Hepatitis A vaccine | Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine | Meptazinol injection |
| Tobramycin Injection | Hepatitis B vaccines | Typhoid vaccine | Aspirin supps |
| Gentamicin injection | Rabies vaccine | Isoprenaline injection | Erwinase (crisantaspase) injection |
| Aztreonam Injection | Morphine suppositories | Remifentanil injection | Glibenclamide tabs |
| Co-trimoxazole tabs/Injection | Modectate depot | Levofloxacin injection | Sotalol tablets |
| Vincristine injection | Ancotil (flucytosine) injection | Fluorouracil injection | Tranexamic Acid 500mg tablets |
| Methotrexate Injection | Rifampicin tablets | Acetazolamide M/R 250mg capsules | Abciximab (ReoPro) |
| Immucyst (BCG bladder cancer product) | Riamet tablets | Trifluoperazine Tablets | 2mg/ml solution Abumin |
| Melphelan tablets | Mitoxantrone | Co-phenotrope tablets | Fluorescein Sodium |
| Diamorphine injection | Olanzapine tablets | Pilocarpine tablets | 100mg/ml Solution for Injection |
| Morphine Injection | Magnesium sulfate injection | Atriance (nelarabine) | lipidine eye drops |
| IV Fluids | Intron A 25MI vial | Disulfiram tablets | |
| Noradrenaline 4mg/4ml | Isoprenaline 2mg/2ml ampoules) | Trisenox (arsenic acid) injection | |
| Dobutamine injection | Pabrinex injection | Adrenaline pre-filled syringes | |
| Vecuronium injection | Nulojix (belatacept) solution for infusion | Topotecan capsules | |
| Lorazepam injection | Trisenox (arsenic acid) injection | | |

Department of Health & Social Care, presented at Clinical Pharmacy Congress, April 2018



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Shortages – why do they happen?

NHS
England



Department of Health & Social Care, presented at Clinical Pharmacy Congress, April 2018

Which is the more expensive product?



Are the prices too low?

BREXIT

Acknowledgements

Brighton HIV Pharmacy Team

Lawson Unit

All the patients who switched

venita.hardweir@bsuh.nhs.uk