

Process guidance for the prior addition of simple switches to ScriptSwitch to improve efficiency

Introduction

The process below explains the approved addition of simple switches that do not present with significant clinical or other differences to be added to the ScriptSwitch (SS) profile without prior approval by Medicines Optimisation Delivery and Implementation Group (MODIG) to avoid delay and maximise efficiency. There is also a governance process in place to manage this process.

Governance process agreed at MODIG to manage addition of 'simple switches' to ScriptSwitch without prior MODIG approval.

The governance process includes the following:

A. Define the **range** of simple switch **types** that do not require MODIG prior approval as below:

Item no.	Type of Switch	Date approved at MODIG
1	Tablets to capsules and vice versa.	15.12 2022
2	Solutions to suspensions and vice versa.	15.12 2022
3	Dose optimisation, e.g. pregabalin 75mg caps to pregabalin 150mg caps. Both strengths cost the same (per capsule) and by using the higher strength for a patient on 150mg BD we halve the cost and reduce pill burden.	15.12 2022
4	Brand to generic switches that do not meet the financial threshold for a full MODIG paper but will benefit a select group of practices that preferentially prescribe a more costly brand.	15.12 2022
5	Switches to ensure use of the most cost-effective sizes and lengths of bandages where this is appropriate, in agreement with the tissue viability nurse (TVN) recommendations.	15.12 2022

The table above may be subject to change and this will be communicated to MODIG for agreement in advance.

B. Prior to implementation, each switch will be discussed/agreed with the senior pharmacist/PMOT Senior Leadership Team (SLT):

- to identify potential risk to patient safety. If potential risk is identified, a formal MODIG review will be carried out
- Qualify cost benefit and workload required to ensure feasibility
- Identify potential patient preferences that apply to switch and add appropriate exemption message to switch if appropriate

C. All simple switches added to SS will be taken to future MODIG meetings for noting.

D. Any simple switch may be subject to revoke at MODIG where this is deemed necessary.

Communicating switches to community pharmacy: Once agreed, all simple switches will be communicated via the various agreed methods of communication for each ICB place.

Summary	
	<p>The purpose of the simple switch process is to manage switches that do not add more consultation or administrative time to clinicians and practice staff. Where switches are deemed to present with concerns related to patient safety, preference or workload, these will not be eligible for addition to SS without prior consultation with MODIG.</p>
	<p>The process followed by clinicians to accept proposed switches in practices remains the same, irrespective of whether the switches have been agreed at MODIG or covered by the simple switch agreement. This paper refers to the way switches are agreed prior to addition to the SS software, not how switches are actioned by clinicians.</p> <p>As such clinicians will continue to alert patients to switches in the usual manner.</p>

Version	2
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