



CDA Position on **Drug Product Substitution**

The Canadian Dental Association supports the objective of providing prescription drugs to patients at the lowest possible cost consistent with safe and effective health care delivery. The CDA agrees with the principle and practice of drug product substitution or alternative drug product selection, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. When the dentist writes “No Substitution” on the prescription, the patient should receive the product prescribed.
2. Patients should be informed of a substitution.
3. Substitution should take place between chemically interchangeable drug products that have an identical mode of delivery as opposed to substitution between products that, although from the same therapeutic class, may have different pharmacologic properties.
4. Standardization of drug quality and safety among the various drug products listed as “interchangeable” should be ensured.
5. The appropriate regulatory authorities should inform the dental profession about the bioavailability, therapeutic equivalence and any clinically relevant differences in formulation or excipient content of interchangeable prescription drug products.
6. The identical product should be dispensed whenever possible in cases of repeat prescriptions unless prior approval to substitute is received from the dentist.
7. All prescription drug products should be identified on the dispensing label by the generic and trade name, strength, manufacturer and quantity.

*Approved
CDA Board of Directors
February 2005*