

ICHP Position Statement - Therapeutic Interchange

Statement of Support

The Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHP) supports the practice of therapeutic interchange as a process that increases access to, controls costs of, and/or improves patient outcomes of medications.

Rationale

The assessment of therapeutic interchanges is a key component of a health system's ongoing formulary management process, which demands the active input of interdisciplinary health professionals, and is evidence-based.

Therapeutic equivalence and interchange amongst products is mutually agreed upon by pharmacists and prescribers, frequently through written guidelines, protocols, or a collaborative practice agreement approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (or equivalent).

Therapeutic interchange occurs when an authorized therapeutically equivalent medication is dispensed in place of the specific medication prescribed.

Therapeutic equivalents are medications that differ in chemical composition or are different medication entities considered to have similar pharmacologic and /or therapeutic actions. This includes biosimilars that are not interchangeable. Often, one medication is switched with another medication within the same therapeutic class, or from another medication class but with the same pharmacologic effect.

References:

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