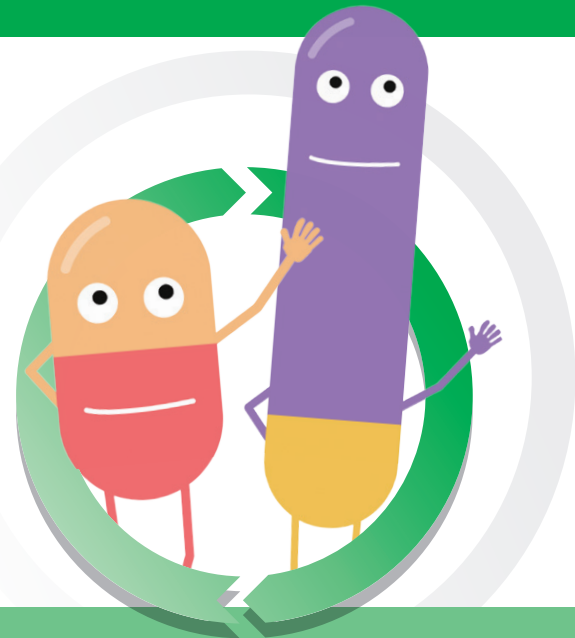


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**YOUR
PHARMACIST:
NOW MORE
HELPFUL
THAN
EVER!**

SUBSTITUTE A DRUG IN THE EVENT OF A SHORTAGE

YOUR PHARMACIST IS NOW AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. THE ORDRE DES PHARMACIENS DU QUÉBEC HAS PRODUCED **7 INFORMATION SHEETS** DESCRIBING EACH OF THESE NEW SERVICES.



Sometimes certain drugs are temporarily unavailable; in other words, there is a shortage of those particular drugs due to factors that have nothing to do with your pharmacist. When this occurs, your pharmacist can now **replace your usual medication with another drug from the same family.**

Why substitute?

When a pharmacist replaces drugs affected by a shortage by another, he ensures that you can continue treating your health problem even when your usual drug is unavailable.

This type of substitution is not the same as generic substitution (replacing the original brand name drug with its generic version), which is already allowed for pharmacists.

Under what circumstances is my pharmacist allowed to substitute another drug for a drug that was prescribed to me?

Before substituting for another drug, your pharmacist must first check that there is in fact a shortage of the drug in question. He will check with nearby pharmacists and drug wholesalers. When these checks confirm that it is impossible to obtain the drug, your pharmacist is authorized to substitute another medication.

Will I be informed of the change?

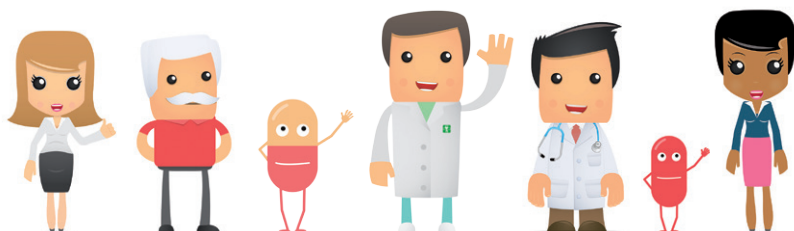
Of course! Your pharmacist will inform you of the drug shortage and discuss with you possible alternative medications. If you agree, he will make the change, record it in your file, and inform your physician or any other professional who prescribed the drug (specialized nurse practitioner, dentist, podiatrist, midwife, optometrist, or other authorized prescriber in Québec) of the substitution.

Should I be concerned about a drug substitution?

Pharmacists always seek to provide you with the safest possible medication that will best meet your needs. Your pharmacist will select the best drug available to meet your therapeutic needs. If necessary, he will contact your physician to discuss the situation. The aim is to ensure that you can continue safely and effectively your treatment.

Can all pharmacists make drug substitutions?

Only pharmacists who have successfully completed the compulsory regulatory training given by the Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec may perform this service. Your pharmacist might not be able to provide the service immediately.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
GO TO **www.opq.org**



ORDRE DES **PHARMACIENS** DU QUÉBEC

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