Generic antiretrovirals: what will they mean for patients and HIV services?

A patient perspective

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Declaration of interests

None
Generic antiretrovirals?

What will they mean for patients and HIV Services?
Who are generics for?

- Young people (<25 years)?
- Standard patients
- Complex patients
Under 25’s

- Hardest age range to treat
- Pill count
- Simple effective combinations
- Leave out of the equation
Complex patients

- Other underlying health conditions?
- People who inject drugs?
Pros of Generics

- Cheaper!
- As effective
- Potential to up-scale treatment
- Some pills are smaller
“let's stop being so fussy...”

White heterosexual man

In the main people are ok with the switch

..........with caveats
• Patient choice? (existing patients on ART)
• Clinicians are not ‘brow beaten’
• Option to switch back?
• No combination change?
Cons of Generics

- Side effects and confidence
- Tablet shape and colour change
- Pill burden
- Misreporting of efficacies
- Loss of STR?
“Who ever thought about this change never thought about us the patients, it was difficult to start the medication in the first place and I don't want to go back to that place, that feeling about what if it doesn't work?”

African women who believed drugs would harm her
Concerns

- Sudden change in prescription
- Changing regimes due to cost
- Data from generic versions
- ‘Aint broken don't fix it’
- Pharma threat to withdraw from HIV – clinical and community
Way forward...

- Education
- Explanation
- Support
- PRICE MATCHING
Thank you!

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