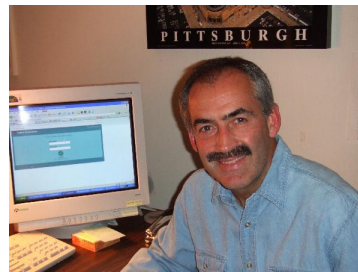


Clinicians Corner



By Dr. Ray Stierer, Pharm D

Generic Coumadin

More and more of our patients are taking generic Coumadin ® due to the cost of the brand name product. Pharmacists are permitted by law to substitute an AB-rated (i.e. therapeutically equivalent) generic warfarin for Coumadin ® unless the physician states on the prescription that the brand name is medically necessary. An AB rating means that in the judgment of the FDA, the products will have equivalent clinical effect and no difference for adverse effects when used under the conditions of their labeling.¹ As a matter of practice, I order a follow-up INR 1 to 2 weeks after making the switch from Coumadin® to generic warfarin, or visa versa.

Occasionally, there are times when I have to verify exactly what strength of "warfarin" the patient is actually taking. And sometimes I find out that the patient is not taking any warfarin at all, which helps explain why the INR is 1.0. To expedite this process, I have compiled a chart of the color, imprint code, and tablet description of AB rated warfarin products. There are currently 7 companies that manufacture an AB –rated generic warfarin, Barr, GenPharm, Pliva (not commercially available yet), Sandoz, Taro, USL (Jantoven®), and Zydus. If you would like to get a copy of this chart, please email me @rstierer@doseresponse.com and I'll get one out via email.

1. Approved drug products with therapeutic equivalent evaluations. 26 edition. Washington, DC : U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006.