

這是因為，同樣的藥物可能有不同的品牌名稱

許多含有相同有效成分的藥物，可能會以不同的品牌名稱生產、銷售。這些藥的名稱、外觀和價格可能各不相同，但是發揮作用的方式是相同的。

在澳大利亞出售的所有藥物，在品質、安全性和有效性方面都必須符合相同的嚴格標準。

如果您可以選擇品牌，那麼每種品牌的有效成分跟處方中的藥物或您通常服用的品牌是一樣的，所以每種品牌在體內的作用也是一樣的。請您記住，不同的藥房可能出售藥物的不同品牌。

BECAUSE THE SAME MEDICINE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT BRAND NAMES

Many medicines with the same active ingredient are manufactured and sold under several different brand names. They may have different names, look different and be a different price, but they work in the same way.

All medicines sold in Australia must meet the same strict standards of quality, safety and effectiveness.

If you're offered a choice of brand, each brand will always have the same active ingredient as the one on your prescription or the one you usually take, so each brand will have the same effect in the body. Remember, different pharmacies may sell different brand names of medicine.

這份資料並非為了代替醫學諮詢；您應該向合格的醫務人員尋求建議。我們已經盡力確保所提供的資訊截至編寫之時是正確的。在法律允許的情況下，NPS對於因依賴或使用這份資料而造成的損失、損壞或傷害（包括疏忽）恕不承擔任何責任。

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何處獲得更多資訊

- ▶ 如果您有任何問題，請向藥劑師或醫生請教，他們會很樂意幫助您。
- ▶ 如果希望進一步瞭解用藥知識，請撥打 1300 MEDICINE (1300 633 424)。如果您需要口譯員，請撥打 131 450 給全國翻譯及口譯服務處，請他們打電話給NPS醫藥熱線，號碼是 1300 633 424。
- ▶ 用《藥物清單》來管理您所服用的全部藥物。請記得包括處方藥物、非處方藥物、維生素和中草藥。清單的印刷版本可從下列網站下載：
www.nps.org.au/medicineslist。

Where you can get more information

- ▶ Talk to your pharmacist or doctor if you have any questions — they're there to help you.
- ▶ Call 1300 MEDICINE (1300 633 424) for more information about medicines. If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450 and ask to speak to NPS Medicines Line on 1300 633 424.
- ▶ Use *Medicines List* to keep track of all the medicines you are taking. Remember to include prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, herbal and traditional remedies. Get your own print copy from www.nps.org.au/medicineslist.



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為什麼要對藥物進行選擇？

WHY ARE WE OFFERED A CHOICE OF MEDICINE?



為什麼藥物的有效成分非常重要？

大多數的藥物有兩個名稱，一個是有效成分名稱，一個是品牌名稱。有效成分是指在藥物中發揮作用的化學成分。品牌名稱是藥物的生產廠商給藥物起的名稱。

每次使用藥物的時候，您都應該查看藥物的有效成分，以免由於使用了另一種含有相同有效成分的藥物而導致使用了雙倍的劑量。

如果您不能確定藥物的有效成分，或者在藥物的包裝上看不到有效成分，請向醫生或藥劑師詢問。

不同品牌的藥物，效果是一樣的嗎？

對。如果一種藥物的有效成分和含量跟另一種藥物是相同的，那麼它們有可能產生的醫療保健作用和副作用都是一樣的。

如果您有慢性病，或者長期使用同一種藥物，那麼您的醫生可能會建議您繼續使用您慣用的品牌。在這種情況下，醫生在處方上會勾選“不允許改用品牌”。

另外，您最好不要老是改換品牌，特別是在使用多種不同藥物的情況下更是如此。否則，就可能造成混淆，記不清應該服哪種藥，什麼時候服藥。

既然藥物的作用是一樣的，為什麼看起來不一樣？

由於商標方面的考慮，藥物的包裝可能看起來不一樣。

不同品牌的藥物，還可能有不同的形狀、大小、顏色或味道。這是因為在製造過程中使用了不同的“非有效成分”，比如乳糖、穀蛋白、糖、防腐劑和著色劑等。

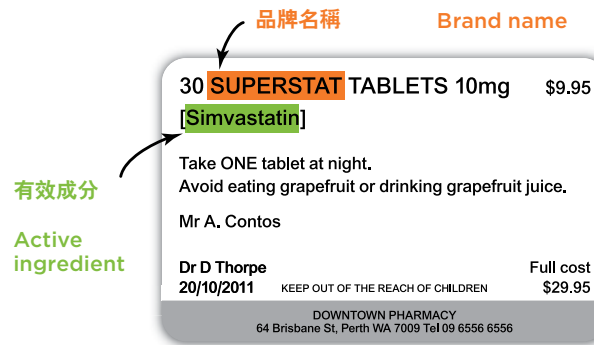
對於大多數的人來說，這些差異並不重要。

不過，如果您對某種物質過敏或不耐受（或者由於文化方面或醫學方面的原因希望避免某種物質），您應該檢查在您所選擇的品牌中是否含有那種非有效成分。如果想要進一步瞭解藥物品牌的選擇，請向您的醫生或藥劑師請教。

查看藥物的有效成分

藥物的有效成分名稱標在藥物的包裝上。如果是處方藥，藥劑師貼上的標籤也會標明藥物有效成分。請參見右邊的藥房標籤示例。

“Superstat”是一種虛構的藥物，僅僅是為了培訓目的而在這裡作為示例。



Find the active ingredient

The active ingredient name is shown on the medicine's packaging. If it is a prescription medicine it is also on the label applied by the pharmacist. See example pharmacy dispensing label on the left.

'Superstat' is a fictitious medicine shown here for educational purposes only.

Why is the active ingredient in your medicine so important?

Most medicines have two names — the active ingredient name and a brand name. The active ingredient is the chemical in the medicine that makes it work. The brand name is the name given to the medicine by its manufacturer.

You should check the active ingredient every time you get a medicine to avoid double dosing with another medicine that contains the same active ingredient.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of the active ingredient or can't find it on your medicine.

Will different brands work as well?

Yes they will. If a medicine has the same active ingredient and strength as another brand, then it will have the same potential health benefits and side effects.

If you have a chronic condition, or have been taking the same medicine for a long time, your doctor may advise that you stick to your usual brand. In which case, they will tick the 'Brand substitution not permitted' box on your prescription.

Also, it's best not to keep switching brands, especially if you're taking several different medicines. This can result in confusion about which medicine to take and when.

Why do medicines look different if they work the same?

Due to trademark considerations, the medicine packaging may look different.

The medicine might also be a different shape, size, colour, or taste different. This is because different 'inactive' ingredients — such as lactose, gluten, sugar, preservatives and dyes — have been used in the manufacturing process.

For most people these differences don't matter.

However, if you have particular allergies or intolerances (or choose to avoid certain substances for cultural or medical reasons) you should check the inactive ingredients included in the brand you choose. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist for more information about your medicine brand choices.