

# POTENTIAL CHANGES TO YOUR MEDICATION

**Please make a note of the DOSE & STRENGTH of each medication you are taking and check the dose of your tablets each time you receive a new supply.**

If you are changing medication for side effects, detectable viral load or if you are switching from a single tablet to more than one this will be discussed with you first. However, if you are on a drug that is available as a generic version the appearance may change from one supply to the next.

**What are generics?** When drugs are developed they are patented, so only the branded product can be prescribed. Once a drug's patent has expired it can be manufactured as a 'generic' or unbranded version. Most NHS medications are generic & typically much less expensive than branded versions.

We already use generic HIV medications; you may be asked to change from branded to generic drugs. Sometimes this means increasing the number of tablets you take **& will be discussed with you first**. In other instances the appearance and packaging of medications may change but the number of tablets remain the same.

**Why might my drugs look different?** The NHS may use different generics suppliers to ensure best value and reliable supply so the appearance of the packaging or tablets may CHANGE. We don't necessarily know in advance when this happens as a lot of our medication is supplied by homecare companies rather than our own pharmacy. **Below are two examples of generic tablets replacing current branded ones.**

This is why we ask you to make a note of your medication dose and to check the tablet strength each time you receive a new supply, as occasionally the tablet strength may differ.

**Contact Bloomsbury Clinic on 020 3317 5228 or 5143 if you have any questions.**

**Atripla** (branded) is being replaced with a generic tablet containing the same three drugs (tenofovir disoproxil, emtricitabine and efavirenz). Supplied by Dr. Reddy's



**Truvada** (branded) is being replaced with a generic tablet containing the same two drugs (tenofovir disoproxil and emtricitabine), supplied by Mylan

