



## American Heart Association Policy Statement on Drug Formularies

*Underlined terms are defined on page 4 of the document.*

1. The AHA supports a formulary system that:

- Assures access to the range of pharmaceuticals that patients with cardiovascular disease may need
- Is under the supervision of "ualified physicians#pharmacists#and other appropriate health professionals
- Provides protocols for the procurement#storage#distri\$ution#and safe use of



5. When necessary, the AHA supports therapeutic interchange, including the practice of generic substitution in designated circumstances. In the case of narrow therapeutic index drugs, the AHA does not support generic to generic interchange.
7. When therapeutic interchange does occur, the patient should be notified verbally, in writing, or electronically, before or at the point of distribution. In the absence of a collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) protocol, the provider should be notified verbally, in writing, or electronically, before or at the point of distribution.
9. The AHA supports transparency of pharmacy benefit information for consumers so that they may make informed decisions regarding medical products. In this way, formulary information, encompassing the pharmaceutical products included, their tier and level of cost sharing, processes for changes or adjustments, as well as restriction strategies must be made transparent to the consumers in an understandable format before they purchase their plan. Similarly, AHA opposes clauses in contracts between pharmacies and benefit managers that prohibit pharmacists from discussing different payment options with patients. These clauses are often referred to as gag clauses.

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1>. Decisions about particular medications for use by a patient should be made by the patient and provider. The AHA supports the prescriber's ability to override without undue administrative burden the substitution of a restricted non-formulary or



## Definitions

: iosimilars: 2Aeneric3 \$iologics that are copies of a therapeutic protein#not



### Ac)nowledgements

The preceding policy statement concerning drug formularies was updated and approved by an expert panel convened by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

The preceding policy statement was approved by the American Heart Association, Advocacy Coordinating Committee on October 1, 2011.

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<sup>i</sup> Available at: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/ob/default.cfm>