

DRUG SUBSTITUTION

May a physician allow for the substitution of a therapeutically equivalent drug?

Yes. Every prescription must contain an instruction indicating whether a therapeutically equivalent drug may be substituted.¹

A written prescription must have two signature lines at opposite ends on the bottom of the form. The words “DISPENSE AS WRITTEN” must be clearly printed under the line on the right side, and the words “SUBSTITUTION PERMITTED” must be clearly printed under the line on the left side. The physician must communicate the substitution instructions to the pharmacist by signing the appropriate line.²

If the prescription is oral, the physician must instruct the pharmacist whether a therapeutically equivalent generic drug may be substituted.³

¹ RCW 69.41.120.

² RCW 69.41.120.

³ RCW 69.41.120.