



More information and resources are available at [www.michiganDO.com](http://www.michiganDO.com).

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Compliments of the Michigan Osteopathic Association and your osteopathic physician.

## PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

# YOU AND YOUR HEALTH



Preventive medicine is an important part of the care your osteopathic physician provides, but **YOU** are the most important person when it comes to your health. The lifestyle choices you make could have more impact on your health than other contributing factors, such as genetics, the environment or health care.

## Switching Prescribed Medicines

Have you ever picked up medicine at the pharmacy and noticed it was different from what your physician prescribed? Sometimes medicines physicians prescribe are changed at the direction of insurance companies or by the pharmacist. These switches are either a:

- Generic Substitution, giving you a different, less expensive medication with the SAME ingredients (allowed in Michigan unless a physician writes “Dispense As Written” or “DAW”; **OR**
- Therapeutic Substitution, giving you a less expensive medication with DIFFERENT ingredients (not allowed in Michigan unless your doctor agrees).

Sometimes a switch can save money, but you should always know of differences in medications and feel comfortable talking to your physician, insurer or pharmacist about concerns with a prescription.

If you believe that a medicine your physician prescribed for you was changed, here are some questions you can ask at the pharmacy:

- “Have you given me the exact medicine that my physician prescribed?”
- “If the medicines are not exactly the same, why are you switching them?”
- “How will this change impact my health?”
- “When will you notify my physician of the switch?”
- “Has the dose of my medicine changed from my previous prescription?”
- “Are the instructions for using this medicine different from my previous prescription?”

**P R E S C R I B E D  
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