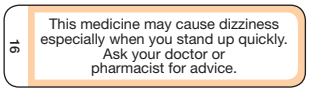
Labels 15a or 15b will be used when one brand of a medicine is replaced by another. They should also be used when one medicine in a particular therapeutic class is replaced by another medicine in the same class, and it is not intended that the patient take both products. A patient's knowledge of the name of the active ingredient will help reduce the chance of inadvertent dose duplication due to brand substitution.

There is evidence of patient confusion about the availability of numerous generic brands of the same medicine. It is recommended that in chronic therapy, brand consistency is maintained where appropriate. Where a generic substitution occurs, the pharmacist should ensure that the product brand can be identified at the time of the next dispencing. In addition, the patient should be counselled regarding the substitution.

Under the conditions for which the sponsor of a generic product has gained Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme approval, a generic product must be available from all wholesalers.

Label 16

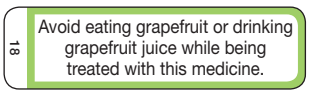


Label 16 is to be used for medicines that are likely to cause orthostatic hypotension, especially in the elderly. The falls that can result are a major cause of bone fractures and other morbidity in older patients. Pharmacists should ensure that they provide adequate verbal and written counselling. Consider providing the PSA Pharmacy Self Care Fact Card *Preventing Falls*.

Label 17

Label 17 has been replaced by label 5.

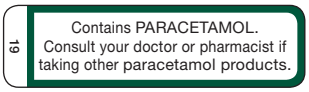
Label 18



Various components of grapefruit have been shown to inhibit the metabolising enzymes of several important medicines, thereby increasing the bio-availability of these medicines and the incidence of adverse effects.

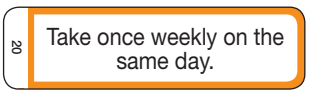
The effect of grapefruit is unpredictable and is likely to vary greatly between patients. Since no recommendation can be made on the quantities that may be safely consumed, patients should be advised to avoid ingestion of grapefruit while undergoing treatment with this medicine.

Label 19



Label 19 is necessary for all products containing paracetamol because of the diversity of combination products whose brand names do not signify the presence of the medicine. The label is also appropriate for use on over-the-counter combination products containing paracetamol. The usual recommended adult total daily dose of paracetamol is 4 g.

Label 20

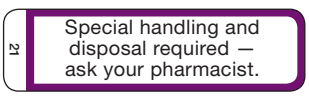


For some inflammatory conditions—including rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis—anti-inflammatory agents (e.g. methotrexate) are used in low-dose, once-a-week regimens. Serious adverse outcomes (including death) have been known to occur following excessive dosing. Pharmacists must confirm the dose is appropriate and stress the reason for the once-a-week dose and the need for constant monitoring.

Some bisphosphonates and antimalarials are also administered once a week.

The pharmacist is to encourage the taking of these medicines on the same day each week.

Label 21



Label 21 is to be used for all cytotoxic agents. Pharmacists may also refer to The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Standards of Practice for the Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs in Pharmacy Departments.

Use label 21 also for transdermal patches (such as fentanyl, nicotine, nitrate and hormone replacement) that may contain residual amounts of potentially harmful medication after normal therapeutic use.