



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
ABN 37 008 426 793

T | 61 2 6270 5400
F | 61 2 6270 5499
E | info@ama.com.au
W | www.ama.com.au

42 Macquarie St Barton ACT 2600
PO Box 6090 Kingston ACT 2604

AMA submission – TGA proposals regarding nomenclature of biological medicines

bloodandtissues@tga.gov.au

The AMA acknowledges that there are benefits in introducing measures to better differentiate between biological and biosimilar medicines.

However, on balance, the AMA considers it would be sensible to support option 1 in the consultation paper for the time being, that is, to maintain the status quo by continuing to identify the active ingredient in biological medicines using its Approved Biological Name, allocated Australian registration number, proprietary trade name and batch numbers when available.

The current system is sufficiently robust for Australia to continue with the status quo until international bodies and regulators such as WHO, FDA and the EMA have determined which option they will adopt and have commenced implementation. This will allow Australia to learn from international experience and see more clearly the costs/benefits of each system, what mistakes to avoid, and what would best suit Australian conditions.

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Contact

Georgia Morris
Senior Policy Advisor
Medical Practice Section
Ph: (02) 6270 5466
gmorris@ama.com.au