EPIPEN, TWINJECT and ANA-KIT COVERAGE
Coverage is provided through Special Authorization for the emergency treatment of anaphylactic reactions, when out of reach of immediate medical attention. Coverage is provided for one device/kit at a time per patient until such time as it requires replacement due to expiry or use. Exceptions can be made if the patient requires a dose over and above what is available in one device/kit or if they reside more than 20 minutes away from emergency medical treatment. Special Authorization requests for more than one device/kit should include the reason for needing more than one device/kit.

It is not NLPDP policy to provide additional pens to remain in school, home or on the bus as it is in the best interest of the patient to carry the pen on their person at all times.

GENERIC VERSUS BRAND NAME DRUGS

• Generic and brand name drugs are bioequivalent.
• Clinically important differences have not been reported in well-controlled trials.
• Generic drugs create savings that can be redirected elsewhere.

HOW ARE GENERIC and BRAND NAME DRUGS THE SAME?
Generic and brand name drugs have identical active ingredients, and generic drugs must meet Health Canada’s standards for bioequivalence. Bioequivalent drug formulations have the same bioavailability; that is, the same rate and extent of absorption. New drug formulations must meet standards set by Health Canada. If the generic drug is bioequivalent, it is assumed that it will produce the same therapeutic effect as the brand name drug. This means that new clinical studies are not needed for generic drugs.

For detailed information, see the CADTH publication What are Bioavailability and Bioequivalence? [link]

Generic drugs are sometimes manufactured by brand name companies. These drugs may be called “ultragenerics” or “pseudogenerics.” In 2004, 27% of generic drugs in Canada were pseudogenerics.
HOW ARE GENERIC and BRAND NAME DRUGS DIFFERENT?
Although the active ingredients are the same, the excipients (inactive ingredients) may differ. This is only important in rare cases when a patient has an allergy or sensitivity to one of the excipients.
The product may also be slightly different in colour, shape, or markings.
The biggest difference is cost. Generic drugs are generally less expensive than brand name comparators.

WHY DO GENERIC DRUGS COST LESS?
Generic drug companies don’t have the expense of researching and developing a new chemical entity.
There is usually competition among generic drug manufacturers.

HOW DO I KNOW IF A GENERIC DRUG IS SAFE FOR MY PATIENT?
Health Canada must review and approve all drug products before they can be sold in Canada.
Generic drug manufacturers must show that their drug is bioequivalent to the brand name comparator.
All manufacturers must meet the same federal standards for good manufacturing practices. These include quality standards for ingredients, assays, manufacturing processes, and facilities.

WHAT MAKES GENERIC and BRAND NAME DRUGS INTERCHANGEABLE?
Interchangeability is not the same thing as bioequivalence. Health Canada determines bioequivalence based on comparative bioavailability studies. Each province or territory determines interchangeability based on their own policies or regulations. In Newfoundland and Labrador interchangeable products are pharmaceutical equivalents or pharmaceutical alternatives that have been shown to be bioequivalent to a reference product as demonstrated by bioavailability, pharmacodynamic or clinical studies and that have the same route of administration.

1. CADTH (Internet). Similarities and Differences Between Brand Name and Generic Drugs; accessed 2012 OCT 3. Available from: http://www.cadth.ca/en/resources/generics/similarities

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR INTERCHANGEABLE DRUG PRODUCTS FORMULARY
New Categories Effective AUGUST 7, 2012
Tramadol Hydrochloride/Acetaminophen 37.5mg/325mg*
Rizatriptan 5mg
Rizatriptan 10mg
Esomeprazole 20mg*
Esomeprazole 40mg*
*NOT covered by NLPDP

CHANGES TO THE NLPDP BENEFIT LISTING
New open benefits for Foundation, 65Plus, Access and Assurance Plans
ETONOGESTREL/ETHINYL Estradiol (NUVARING VAGINAL RING) DIN 02253186