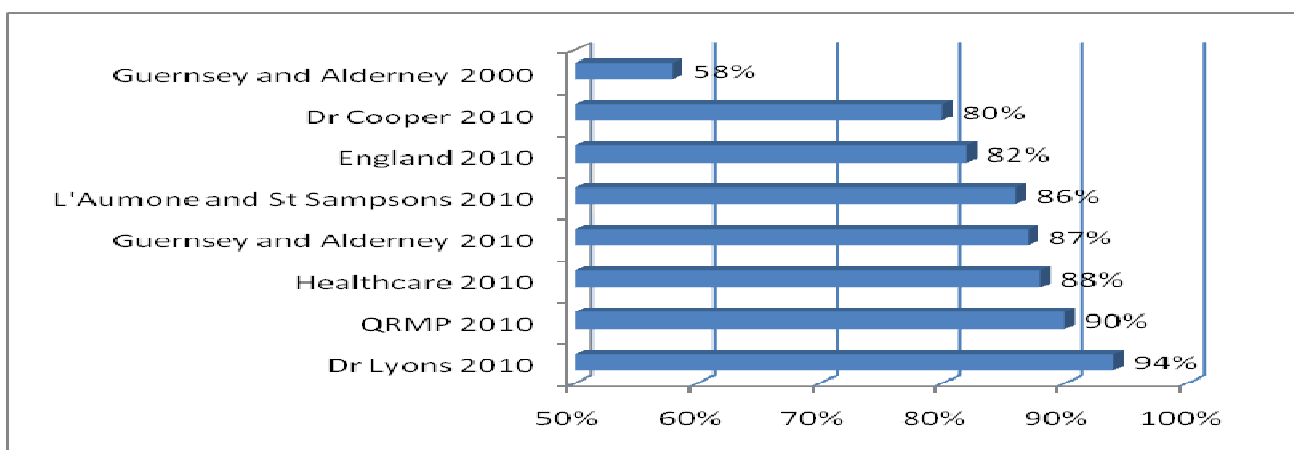


Prescribing...

Generically

- Guernsey and Alderney now have very high rates of generic prescribing.
- As a direct consequence, large sums which might have been spent on branded drugs are now retained in the health fund and are available for islanders who need new expensive treatments such as oral anti-cancer drugs.
- However, there are still some products which are best prescribed by brand.

Primary care practices, for the quarter ending December 2010, had generic prescribing rates as shown below. These figures represent very large increases from 2000 when it was just 58% island-wide.



This is a remarkable achievement which our healthcare community should be very proud of.

There are however a number of products whose release characteristics mean that patients should be retained on the same product. Also, complex multi-component products such as feeds, emollients and HRT may cause significant confusion when prescribed generically, so should be prescribed by brand. Our local Scriptswitch profile has reminders to prescribe the following by brand.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Ciclosporin | • MR Nifedipine | • MR Verapamil |
| • EC Mesalazine | • MR Diltiazem | • HRT |
| • Lithium | • MR Verapamil | • Insulins |
| • Theophylline | • Beclometasone Inhalers | • Nutrition products |
| • Wound care products | • Feeds | • Dermatological products such as emollients |

For those patients experiencing real difficulties with their treatment regimen a rigorous review of the need for each drug remains the best approach. The use of dosette boxes is an option available that may be very helpful for some patients.

Please contact me if you would like any more information.

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