Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding Patients' Perspective in the Use of Generic Antiepileptic Drugs: Compelling Lessons for Physicians to Improve Physician-Patient Communication

Version: 2 Date: 18 December 2008

Reviewer: PAMELA CRAWFORD

Reviewer’s report:

The first part is a good overview of the topic of generic prescribing in epilepsy. However it needs to be shorter as the actual research topic is slightly difficult. it also needs to concentrate on recommendations of other countries such as Italy.

My main concern is that the second half of the paper, as written, is really only relevant to an American readership. It possibly would be better if it was written in more general terms.

No mention is made of an individual therapeutic window which is one of the arguments against generic prescribing.

The LeLorier and Andemann papers do not show compelling reasons that patients should not receive generic medication. It is highly likely that patients went back to the branded preparation for reasons other than efficacy and side effects. The number of patients with genuine problems on swapping is around 5%. No mention is made that seizure control can improve or side effects decrease on changing to a generic.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received sponsorship for meetings, speakers fees, research grants from all AED manufacturers except Eisai.