A Guide to State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Disclaimer: The AAN has adopted position statements expressing concern with generic substitutions (see M. J. Berg, et al., “Generic substitution in the treatment of epilepsy,” Neurology 2008;71:525-530). Accordingly, the AAN seeks to assist members who wish to prescribe specific medication for their patients (i.e., not approve the substitution of generic medication without their consent). A Guide to State “Dispense as Written” Laws is a useful tool for this purpose. It was developed by Abbott Laboratories, Inc. and provided to the AAN, without charge, in early 2008. The AAN has not verified the accuracy of the guide, so the user should independently determine that the guide accurately describes the requirements of the user’s state.
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Alabama

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line
Alaska

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary” or words of similar meaning.
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Arizona

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Dispense as Written,” “DAW,” “Do Not Substitute,” “Medically Necessary,” or words of similar meaning.
Arkansas

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwritten “Do Not Substitute”

For Medicaid patients: submission of MedWatch form is required
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

California

To ensure brand is dispensed: 
handwrite initials in “Do Not Substitute” box or 
handwrite “Do Not Substitute” or words of similar meaning

Survey of Pharmacy Law 2008, National Boards of Pharmacy
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Colorado

To ensure brand is dispensed: 
handwrite initials in “Dispense as Written” box or handwrite “Dispense as Written”
Connecticut

To ensure brand is dispensed: 
handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”

For Medicaid patients: also specify the basis on which the brand name drug is medically necessary

Survey of Pharmacy Law 2008, National Boards of Pharmacy
Delaware

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Necessary” or “Brand Medically Necessary”
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

District of Columbia

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Dispense as Written,” “DAW” or words of similar meaning.
Florida

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Medically Necessary”

For Medicaid patients: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
Georgia

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Necessary”

For Medicaid patients: GA Watch Form must be faxed to SXC Health Solutions for prior approval if AB-rated product is currently available
Hawaii

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary” or words of similar meaning
Idaho

To ensure brand is dispensed: check box next to “Brand Only”
Illinois

To ensure brand is dispensed: check box next to the words “May Not Substitute” or sign on “May Not Substitute” line
Indiana

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line

For Medicaid/Medicare patients: also handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
Iowa

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite "Dispense as Written" or similar wording, to indicate that no drug product selection shall be made.
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Kansas

To ensure brand is dispensed:  
handwrite “Dispense as Written” or  
sign on the “Dispense as Written” line
Kentucky

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwritten “Do Not Substitute”
Louisiana

To ensure brand is dispensed: check “Dispense as Written” box

For Medicaid patients, also handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary” or “Brand Necessary”
Maine

To ensure brand is dispensed: put check in box or, if using a prescription form with no box, handwrite “Dispense as Written,” “DAW,” “Brand,” “Brand Necessary,” or “Brand Medically Necessary”
Maryland

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary,” “Dispense as Written,” or words of similar meaning
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Massachusetts

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “No Substitution”
Michigan

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Dispense as Written” or “DAW” or initial “DAW” in box
Minnesota

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite **“Dispense as Written”** or **“DAW”**

For Medicaid patients: handwrite **“DAW - Brand Medically Necessary”**
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Mississippi

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line

If using a form that does not contain two signature lines, handwrite “Dispense as Written”

For Medicaid patients; also handwrite: “Brand Name Medically Necessary,” “Dispense as Written,” or “Do Not Substitute”
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Missouri

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line
Montana

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
Nebraska

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “No Drug Product Selection,” “NDPS,” “Dispense as Written,” “Brand Medically Necessary” or words of similar meaning.
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Nevada

To ensure brand is dispensed: 
handwrite “Dispense as Written”
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

New Hampshire

To ensure brand is dispensed: 
handwrite “Medically Necessary”
New Jersey

To ensure brand is dispensed: initials in “Do Not Substitute” box

For Medicaid patients: also handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
New Mexico

To ensure brand is dispensed:
handwrite “No Substitution” or “No Sub”
New York

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwritten "DAW" in box above "Dispense as Written"

For Medicaid patients: check DAW box and also handwrite "Brand Medically Necessary"
North Carolina

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line or, if using a form without two signature lines, handwrite “Dispense as Written”

For Medicaid patients: handwrite “Medically Necessary”
### North Dakota

To ensure brand is dispensed: 
handwrite **Brand Necessary.**  
Reminder legend must appear on prescription forms

For Medicaid patients: handwrite 
**Dispense as Written**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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</table>

**Sign:** 

**Eduardo N. Juan, MD**

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In order for a brand name product to be dispensed, the prescriber must handwrite the words **"BRAND NECESSARY."**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RXI NR</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>VOID AFTER</th>
</tr>
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</table>
Ohio

To ensure brand is dispensed:
handwrite “Dispense as Written” or “DAW”
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Oklahoma

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Dispense as Written” or “DAW”
Oregon

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “No Substitution” or “NS”
Pennsylvania

To ensure brand is dispensed:
handwrite “Brand Necessary” or
“Brand Medically Necessary”
Puerto Rico

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Do Not Interchange”
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

Rhode Island

To ensure brand is dispensed:  handwrite “Brand Name Necessary”
State “Dispense as Written” Laws

South Carolina

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line

For Medicaid patients, MD must handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary” or “Brand Necessary”
South Dakota

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Necessary” or words of similar meaning
Tennessee

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Dispense as Written,” “DAW” or words of similar meaning
Texas

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Necessary” or “Brand Medically Necessary”
Utah

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Dispense as Written” or sign on “Dispense as Written” line

For Medicaid patients, handwrite “Brand Name Necessary”
Vermont

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite "Brand Necessary" or "No Substitution"
Virginia

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
Washington

To ensure brand is dispensed: sign on “Dispense as Written” line
West Virginia

To ensure brand is dispensed:
handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
Wisconsin

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “No Substitution,” “NS,” or words of similar meaning.

For Medicaid patients: handwrite “Brand Medically Necessary”
Wyoming

To ensure brand is dispensed: handwrite “Do Not Substitute” or words of similar meaning.