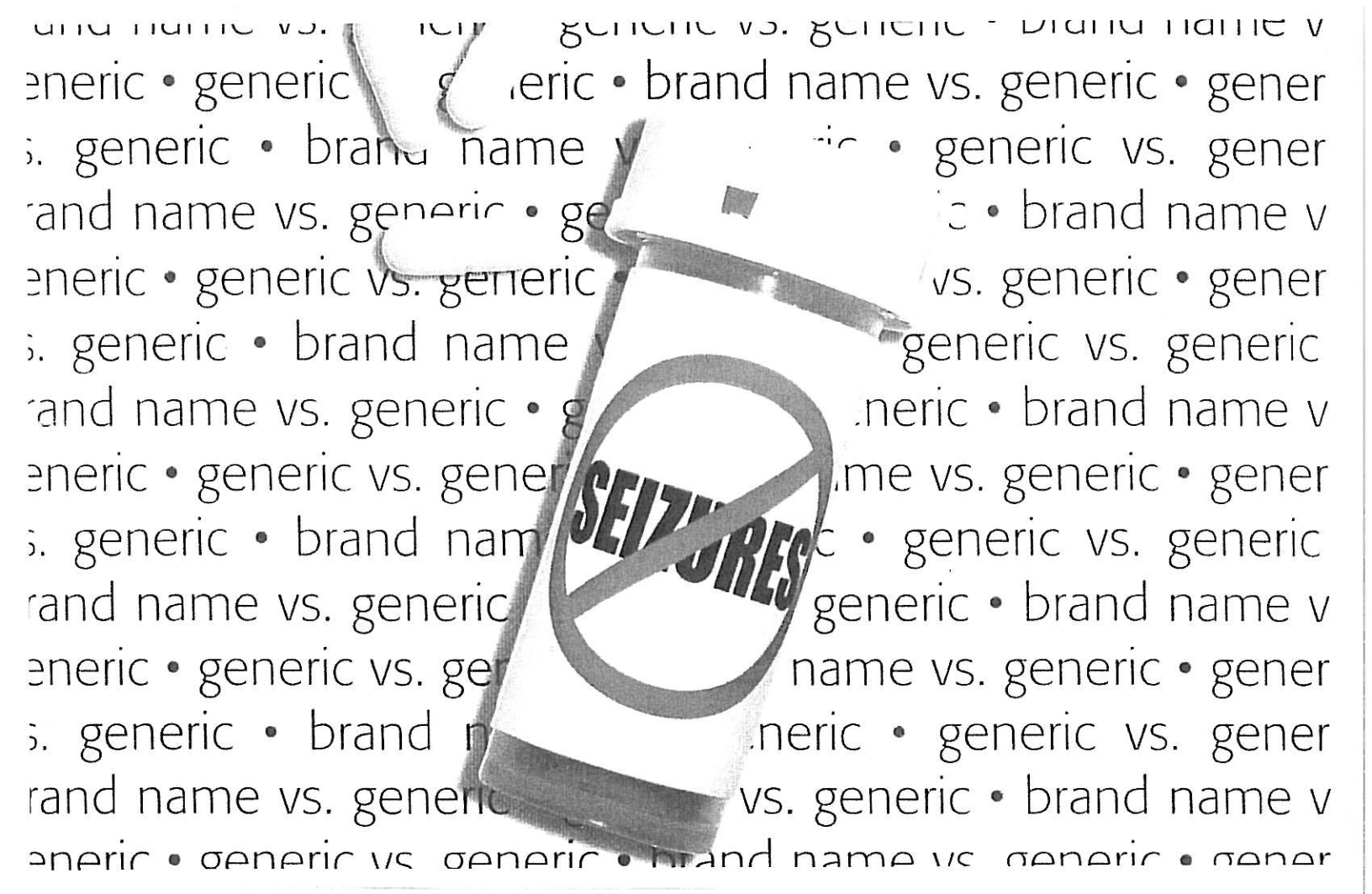

Generic Substitution - What You Need to Know

In New York State, pharmacists are permitted to substitute a generic for a name brand antiepileptic medication without notifying the patient or the physician.

Although generics can offer substantial cost savings, there can be significant differences in dosage strength between brand and generics (80% - 125%). This variance puts individuals with epilepsy at risk for breakthrough seizures and toxic side effects. A single breakthrough seizure can have devastating consequences, including loss of driver's license, employment, injury and death.

Proposed NYS legislation would require a pharmacist to obtain informed consent from the physician and the patient prior to substitution. This legislation does not prohibit substitution, nor does it promote name brand medications over generic ones. It simply prevents switching among various formulations of the same epilepsy medication without notifying the patient and the physician.

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUESTED: It is critical that you call or write your state Senator and Assemblyperson today and request that they sign on to co-sponsor Senate Bill S05016 and Assembly Bill A09303.

This legislation is supported by The National Epilepsy Foundation, the American Epilepsy Society and the American Academy of Neurology.

Visit www.epilepsyfoundation.org/efneny for a copy of the legislation and Memo of Support.

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