

## Generic Drugs for Community Pharmacy

○Keiko Masada  
(Herusu Community Pharmacy)

The system of the medical payment in Japan, was revised on April in 2006, and item of “could be substitute the branded drug by generic drug” was newly introduced in the prescription form. The incentive fee is also guaranteed when over 300 products are adopted in the community pharmacy. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan recently promoted the introduction of generic products into Japanese markets instead of branded drug in order to accelerate the reduction of medical treatment expense. It seems to be the most important and tough work for pharmacists to recommend or select the most suitable generic drug for a patient from many generic candidates since there are so many differences in indications, costs and etc., In the present study, questionnaire of generic product company is firstly carried out to develop new criteria for choosing appropriate generic drug when the community pharmacist receives of the prescription accompanied with a comment of " The branded drug can be substituted by generic medicines". According to the obtained result, it was found that there are considerable differences in the standpoint of knowledge, distribution route and ability of supplying products among many generic companies. Even though The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare approved bioequivalence between the branded and generic product, there are still reports demonstrating discrepancy of the dissolution characteristics, and difference of bioequivalence. The circumstances in which the quality of branded or generic products could be easily clarified, should be developed in near future.