

Table 4 Renal patients' (n = 188) attitudes towards generic medicine and substitution

Question	Response	No.	%	95% CI
Which of the following do you think may be the potential reason for switching your medicine to the generic form? (n ^r =153)	Save the Ministry of Health money	56	37	29–45
	Generics are more effective	8	5	2–10
	Generics have the same effectiveness and less costs	43	28	21–36
	The branded medicine was not available	45	29	22–37
	Other	1	1	0–4
Do you think that receiving a generic medicine might affect how regularly you take your medicines? (n ^r =174)	Yes	48	28	21–35
	No	58	33	26–41
	Uncertain	68	39	32–47
How satisfied are you with the generic alternative that you are taking? ^a (n ^r = 70)	Very satisfied	24	34	23–47
	Dissatisfied	20	29	18–41
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	26	37	26–50
Have you experienced any differences in terms of effectiveness or side-effects between branded and generic medicines? ^a (n ^r = 72)	Yes	32	44	33–57
	No	31	43	31–55
	Uncertain	9	13	6–22
Do you think adapting to these differences was a concern? (n ^r = 52 ^b)	Yes	24	46	32–61
	No	10	19	10–33
	Uncertain	18	35	22–49
What differences between the branded and generic medicines have you experienced or heard of? (n ^r = 107)	Packaging	26	24	17–34
	Shape, colour or taste	22	20	13–29
	Brand was more effective	31	29	21–39
	Generic was more effective	3	3	0–8
	Brand had more side-effects	2	2	0–7
	Generic had more side-effects	22	21	13–29
	Other	1	1	0–5

n^r = total number of patients responding to the question.

^aNumber of patients on generic medicines = 81.

^bOut of the 72 who experienced differences.

CI = confidence interval.