

Table 5 Evaluation by renal patients (n = 188) of the role of healthcare professionals in their acceptance of generic substitution

Question	Response	No.	% (95% CI)
In general, how far do you feel your doctor involves you in decisions regarding your medications? (n <sup>r</sup> = 175)	A lot	82	47 (39–54)
	A bit	71	41 (33–48)
	Not at all	18	10 (6–16)
	Uncertain	4	2 (0–6)
Has your doctor ever told you to make sure that you always receive the same brand of any medicine? (n <sup>r</sup> = 175)	Yes	29	17 (11–23)
	No	142	81 (75–87)
	Uncertain	4	2 (0–6)
Would you agree to switch your medicine to a generic alternative if your doctor felt that the 2 medicines were interchangeable? (n <sup>r</sup> = 104)	Agree	74	71 (61–80)
	Disagree	17	16 (10–25)
	Uncertain	13	13 (7–20)
How much would you favour or oppose a requirement that patients always be notified if their medicine is changed to a generic form? (n <sup>r</sup> = 178)	Favour	156	88 (82–92)
	Oppose	12	7 (4–11)
	Neither favour nor oppose	10	5 (3–10)
Do you think that you should be consulted about being given generic medicines? (n <sup>r</sup> = 188)	Yes, by general practitioner	26	14 (9–20)
	Yes, by hospital specialist	56	30 (23–37)
	Agreement of both general practitioner and hospital specialist	54	29 (23–36)
	Do not think that this is necessary	52	27 (21–34)
Has your doctor ever changed your medicine to a generic form? (n <sup>r</sup> = 175)	Yes	29	17 (11–22)
	No	142	81 (75–87)
	Uncertain	4	2 (0–6)
Did your doctor monitor the effect of your medicine after switching you to a generic medicine? (n <sup>r</sup> = 106)	Yes	14	13 (7–21)
	No	50	47 (37–57)
	Uncertain	42	40 (30–50)
Did anyone provide you with background information about your generic medicine? (n <sup>r</sup> = 105)	Yes	40	38 (29–48)
	No	57	54 (44–64)
	Uncertain	8	8 (3–14)
Who provided you with background information? (n <sup>r</sup> = 168)	Specialist	38	23 (17–30)
	Hospital doctor	39	23 (17–30)
	General practitioner	39	23 (17–30)
	Pharmacist	44	26 (20–34)
	Nurse	6	4 (1–8)
	Other	2	1 (0–4)
Did you consider the information provided about your generic medicine sufficient? (n <sup>r</sup> = 63)	Yes	30	48 (35–61)
	No	12	19 (10–31)
	Uncertain	21	33 (22–46)
Did anyone discuss the reasons for switching your medicine to the generic form? (n <sup>r</sup> = 100)	Yes	65	65 (55–74)
	No	33	33 (24–43)
	Uncertain	2	2 (0–7)
Who discussed the reasons for switching your medicine to the generic form? Choose all applicable (n <sup>r</sup> = 194)	Specialist	51	27 (20–33)
	Hospital doctor	45	23 (17–30)
	General practitioner	41	21 (16–28)
	Pharmacist	9	25 (19–32)
	Nurse	8	4 (2–8)
	Other	0	0 (0–2)

n<sup>r</sup> = total number of patients responding to the question.

CI = confidence interval.