

## Appropriate Utilization of Dispense As Written (DAW) Codes

Dispense As Written (DAW) (also known as product selection codes) are an integral part of accurate billing to the Alabama Medicaid Agency and provide the agency with the reason why a specific brand or generic is dispensed based on the prescriber's instructions. Failure to accurately use DAW codes results in misinformation to the Pharmacy program and its decision making process. Misinformation on claims may also result in retrospective pharmacy review and/or recoupment. Inaccurate usage of DAW codes is among one of the discrepancies found during an audit and is one of the Primary Pharmacy Audit Components listed in the Provider Billing Manual Section 27.2.5. The following codes are the various DAW codes available to the Alabama Medicaid Pharmacy program with explanations that have been taken from the National Council on Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) version 5.1 data dictionary for field 408-D8 Product Selection Codes. Providers should utilize the correct codes based upon the information submitted on the prescription and the prescriber's signature.

**Ø=No Product Selection Indicated**-This is the field default value that is appropriately used for prescriptions where product selection is not an issue. Examples include prescriptions written for single source brand products and prescriptions written using the generic name and a generic product is dispensed.

**1=Substitution Not Allowed by Prescriber**-This value is used when the prescriber indicates, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that the product is to be Dispensed As Written.

**2=Substitution Allowed-Patient Requested Product Dispensed**-This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted and the patient requests the brand product. This situation can occur when the prescriber writes the prescription using either the brand or generic name and the product is available from multiple sources. *(Not permitted by Alabama Medicaid)*

**3=Substitution Allowed-Pharmacist Selected Product Dispensed**-This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted and the pharmacist determines that the brand product should be dispensed. This can occur when the prescriber writes the prescription using either the brand or generic name and the product is available from multiple sources.

**4=Substitution Allowed-Generic Drug Not in Stock**-This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted and the brand product is dispensed since a currently marketed generic is not stocked in the pharmacy.

This situation exists due to the buying habits of the pharmacist, not because of the unavailability of the generic product in the marketplace.

**5=Substitution Allowed-Brand Drug Dispensed as a Generic**-This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted and the pharmacist is utilizing the brand product as the generic entity.

**6=Override** *(Not permitted by Alabama Medicaid)*

**7=Substitution Not Allowed-Brand Drug Mandated by Law**-This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted but prevailing law or regulation prohibits the substitution of a brand product even though generic versions of the product may be available in the marketplace.

**8=Substitution Allowed-Generic Drug Not Available in Marketplace**-This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted and the brand product is dispensed since the generic is not currently manufactured, distributed, or is temporarily unavailable.

**9=Other/Substitution Allowed- Plan Requests Brand Dispensed**- This value is used when the prescriber has indicated, in a manner specified by prevailing law, that generic substitution is permitted, but the plan's formulary requests the brand product to be dispensed.

**To indicate instructions to the dispensing pharmacy, a physician simply signs the prescription in a manner specified by prevailing law to indicate to a providing pharmacy whether or not generic substitution is allowed. Effective May 1, 2008 an override form and Medwatch 3500 form is required in order to medically justify a provider's reason for requesting a branded product when an exact generic equivalent is available. DAW overrides and the Medwatch 3500 form should be submitted to Health Information Designs. For more information or administrative questions regarding the DAW requirements, providers may call the Pharmacy Services unit at (334) 242-5050.**