Which strength is for which ingredient?

In recent months, many warnings have been issued regarding the potential for error when prescribing or dispensing products containing multiple active ingredients. This comes about due to the listing of active ingredients in alphabetical order, which could cause confusion and potentially increase the risk of error. While this safety concern is nothing new, recently, these problems have resurfaced because of the discrepancies between the listing of these active ingredients in the PBS, AMT and the manufacturer's product information.

Whilst the listing of multiple active ingredients alphabetically may seem like a simple administrative update, the change has had serious implications for developers of prescribing and dispensing software.

Some examples of the products affected are listed below:

Coveram 5/10 (5mg/10mg)
Package label = COVERAM 5mg/10mg; Perindopril 5mg/Amlodipine 10mg
Revised PBS listing = Amlodipine 10mg + Perindopril 5mg
Medical Software Brand Listing = COVERAM TABLETS 5mg/10mg
Previous Medical Software Ingredient Listing = PERINDOPRIL/AMLODIPINE TABLETS 5mg/10mg **(Correct)**
Medical Software Ingredient Listing as per current PBS Schedule = AMLODIPINE/PERINDOPRIL TABLETS 5mg/10mg **(Incorrect)**

Coveram 10/5 (10mg/5mg)
Package Label = COVERAM 10mg/5mg; Perindopril 10mg/Amlodipine 5mg
Revised PBS Listing = Amlodipine 5mg + Perindopril 10mg
Medical Software Brand Listing = COVERAM TABLETS 10mg/5mg
Previous Medical Software Ingredient Listing = PERINDOPRIL/AMLODIPINE TABLETS 10mg/5mg **(Correct)**
Medical Software Ingredient Listing as per current PBS Schedule = AMLODIPINE/PERINDOPRIL TABLETS 10mg/5mg **(Incorrect)**

Daivobet Ointment
Package Label = DAIVOBET; Each g contains: Calcipriol 30mcg Betamethasone 0.5mg
Revised PBS listing = Betamethasone 0.05% (500mcg/g) + Calcipriol 0.005% (50mcg/g)
Medical Software Brand Listing = DAIVOBET (0.005% - 0.05%) OINT 50mcg – 500mcg/g
Previous Medical Software Ingredient Listing = CALCIPRIOL/BETAMETHASONE 50mcg-500mcg/g **(Correct)**
Medical Software Ingredient Listing as per current PBS Schedule = BETAMETHASONE/CALCIPRIOL 50mcg-500mcg/g **(Incorrect)**

Prednefrin Forte Eye Drops
Package Label = PRENEFRIN FORTE; Prednisolone Acetate 10mg Phenylephrine 1.2mg per 1ml)
Revised PBS Listing = Phenylephrine 0.12% (1.2mg/ml) + Prednisolone 1% (10mg/ml)
Medical Software Brand Listing = PREDNEFRIN FORTE EYE-DRP 10mg-1.2mg/ml
Previous Medical Software Ingredient Listing = PREDNISOLONE & PHENYLEPHRINE EYE DROPS 10mg-1.2mg/ml **(Correct)**
Medical Software Ingredient Listing as per current PBS Schedule = PHENYLEPHRINE & PREDNISOLONE EYE DROPS 10mg-1.2mg/ml **(Incorrect)**

Many medical and pharmacy groups have raised this safety issue with the Department of Health and Ageing, and have recommended that these products should have their ingredients listed in the most appropriate order, that is to say, in the same way as they are listed in TGA approved product information. (PTO)At MIMS we see patient safety as a priority and, because of this, have ensured that the list of active ingredients is the same as the TGA approved PI. As this has been our standard practice, vendors and suppliers using MIMS have not been impacted by the recent safety alerts and bulletins.