



## Avoiding rechallenge with a contraindicated drug

Mary's arthritis is getting worse.

– I don't know what to do to ease the pain. Topalgic° made me dizzy. A friend gave me some Contramal° to try, but it affected me the same way. Isn't there anything I can take?

– Actually, her doctor explains, Contramal° and Topalgic° contain exactly the same drug. The real name is tramadol.

Many other painkillers are available, and Mary should clearly avoid all products containing tramadol.

– However, tramadol is sold under a dozen very different trade names. To avoid taking the same drug under different trade names, the best solution is to use the INN (International Nonproprietary Name), which is a drug's only real name.

In future, Mary will make sure she always asks for the INN of the drugs she is prescribed or buys over the counter.

### **The INN system helps patients to avoid side effects**

The INN (International Nonproprietary Name) is quite simply a drug's real name. Created by the World Health Organization (WHO), the INN system is used throughout the world. It allows healthcare professionals and patients to identify a drug precisely and with confidence, and to avoid potentially serious adverse effects due to confusion between drugs. With the INN, everything is simpler, clearer and more precise.

**Ask your doctor and pharmacist to explain the INN system**



"The INN campaign: a drug's real name": explanations and other materials produced by the Medicines in Europe Forum are available from the following websites:

– Association Mieux Prescrire ([www.prescrire.org](http://www.prescrire.org))

– Fédération Nationale de la Mutualité Française ([www.mutualite.fr](http://www.mutualite.fr))

– Union Fédérale des Consommateurs Que Choisir ([www.quechoisir.org](http://www.quechoisir.org))

The INN, a drug's real name: leaflets are available to download for free at [www.prescrire.org](http://www.prescrire.org), along with explanations of the reasons for using the INN and the (rare) drawbacks.