# [Template letter for switching] Preferred Product - Glatiramer acetate: BRABIO®

Dear [insert name of patient],

I am writing to you as you are currently receiving a medicine called glatiramer acetate (also known by its brand name Copaxone®).

Until recently, there has only been one product containing glatiramer acetate available in Ireland (Copaxone®), but following several years of development, another pharmaceutical company has now been licensed to produce a copy of this medicine (Brabio®).

The HSE-Medicines Management Programme has undertaken a review of both products containing glatiramer acetate. Brabio® is recommended as the preferred product for patients who are prescribed glatiramer acetate. It has been fully evaluated in clinical studies and been shown to have the same effectiveness and side-effect profile as Copaxone®. In recent years, patients in other European countries are being successfully treated with Brabio®.

Brabio® is provided to the HSE at a much lower cost than Copaxone®. This helps the HSE to provide medicines to patients at a better price, and ensure efficiencies for the health service.

## What does this mean for me?

Because both Brabio® and Copaxone® contain the same medicine (glatiramer acetate), the treatment of your condition remains unchanged. You will now be prescribed and dispensed Brabio® instead of Copaxone®. You will continue to be looked after by the same team, in the same clinic, and in the same manner. In addition, your dose and frequency of injection will also remain the same.

Brabio® is presented in a different injection device to Copaxone®. As a result, there will be a change in the injection device that you use to administer glatiramer acetate. The HSE-Medicines Management Programme have assessed the two injection devices and noted that the differences between the two devices are minor. A visit by a nurse to your home can be arranged in order to show you how to use the new injection device.

If you are happy to switch from Copaxone® to Brabio®, we will ensure that you are provided with information and support to enable you to be confident to switch.

If you would like any more information regarding Brabio®, or if you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please feel free to discuss them with us.

Yours sincerely,

[insert name of consultant]