

Medicines Management Commissioning

Prescribing Memo

Updated information on supply problems with standard release isosorbide mononitrate tablets

Date: 26th February 2013

Memo Number: 02/13

Further to the prescribing memo issued on 7th February, the Department of Health's Chief Pharmaceutical Officer issued a [letter regarding significant shortages relating to all strengths of isosorbide mononitrate tablets](#) (10mg, 20mg and 40mg). Please find below an update on the situation.

Isosorbide mononitrate 10mg, 20mg and 40mg standard release tablets are all in short supply; the factory that produces most of the UK supply has been temporarily closed down and there is likely to be no stock available until at least June 2013 (possibly longer).

Unfortunately there is no easy alternative product to change to. There is likely to be high demand for modified release products and they may become in short supply themselves.

Recommended action:

- **If patients are unable to obtain standard release isosorbide mononitrate preparations then issue a temporary alternative modified release isosorbide mononitrate preparation, ensuring that the patient understands the change of dose**
- The Department of Health currently recommend a mg per mg substitution would be appropriate (i.e. same daily dose overall) in most patients, and where available formulations allow.
- Because information on the dose equivalence of these products is uncertain, clinical oversight to consider further dose adjustment is advised.
- Community pharmacists have been advised to refer patients with prescriptions for standard release preparations and unable to obtain stock, back to the prescriber so that an appropriate alternative can be prescribed.
- Practices are advised to liaise with their local community pharmacies for up to date information on stock availability.

Examples of modified release isosorbide mononitrate preparations currently available:

Modified release dose	Products available (cost for 28 days' treatment)
25mg	Elantan LA 25 mg caps (£3.40) Isotard XL 25mg tabs (£6.95) Isodur XL 25mg caps (£4.63)
40mg	Isotard XL 40mg tabs (£6.75) Ismo Retard 40mg tabs (£9.75) Monomax SR caps 40mg (£6.52)
50mg	Elantan LA 50mg caps (£3.69) Isodur XL 50mg caps (£6.45) Isotard XL 50 mg tabs (£6.75)
60mg	Chemydur XL tabs 60mg (£3.49) Monomil XL tabs 60mg (£3.98) Monomax XL tabs 60mg (£5.25) Isotard XL 60mg tabs (£5.75) Monomax SR caps 60mg (£8.86) Imdur LA 60mg tabs (£10.15)

If intending to prescribe a 90mg dose using a 60mg product (i.e. 1½ tablets) please ensure you prescribe one of the tablet formulations.