**Suggested Switch Letter for venlafaxine MR capsules to modified release tablets**

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Patient Name

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

Date

Dear………………..

**Medication Change**

We would like to inform you of a minor change to one of your medicines.

As a practice, our priority is always to strive to provide our patients with the best possible healthcare and, at the same time, support the NHS in ensuring that prescribing is cost effective. This allows us to ensure that funds are available to treat as many patients as possible.

**Your prescription for:**

* **Venlafaxine xxxxmg MR capsules, Take ONE capsule daily**

**has been changed to**

* **Venlafaxine xxxxx mg MR tablets, Take ONE tablet daily**

The tablets provide the same dose of venlafaxine in a tablet form rather than a capsule. We have decided to change to Venlafaxine MR tablets because at the moment the tablets are available at a much lower cost than the capsules and so achieve better use of NHS resources. You should not notice any difference in effect. However, if you do experience any side effects or other problems then please contact the practice for advice.

Please finish your current supply of capsules before ordering your new prescription for tablets.

If you do not wish to have your prescription altered, please make a routine appointment to discuss this with your usual GP. If you have any other questions concerning this change please don’t hesitate to contact me at the above number.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Suggested Letter for stopping Gamolenic Acid Prescriptions**

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Patient Name

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

Date

Dear………………..

**Important information about your prescription for gammolenic acid**

We are writing to you regarding the prescriptions you receive for gammolenic acid.

We want to let you know that prescriptions for this food supplement will no longer be available from your GP.

The reason is that Northumberland CCG, who is responsible for deciding how healthcare resources are used, has reviewed the clinical evidence available and decided that the use of gammolenic acid is not clinically effective.

I’m sorry if this an unexpected change however I am sure you will understand that the NHS has to make the best use of its resources and NHS North of Tyne has decided that instead of funding this product with uncertain benefit, the money could be used more effectively for other drugs and treatments.

You will find enclosed a leaflet which explains more about this decision and how you can still buy gammolenic acid from community pharmacists, health food shops and some supermarkets.

If you have any questions concerning this change, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

Yours sincerely

**Suggested Switch Letter for Tamsulosin MR tablets to modified release capsules**

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Patient Name

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

Date

Dear………………..

**Medication Change**

As a practice, our priority is always to strive to provide our patients with the best possible healthcare and, at the same time, support the NHS in ensuring that prescribing is cost effective. This allows us to ensure that funds are available to treat as many patients as possible.

We are writing to you because our records show that you are currently prescribed **Tamsulosin 400mcg MR *tablets,* ONE to be taken daily**. When you order your next repeat prescription this will be changed to **Tamsulosin 400mcg MR *capsules,* ONE to be taken daily.**

We are making this change as it is more cost-effective for the practice. The medication itself is the same and will therefore have exactly the same effect.

Please finish your current supply of tablets before ordering your new prescription for capsules.

If you do not wish to have your prescription altered or think that the dose is incorrect, please make a routine appointment to discuss this with your usual GP.

Yours sincerely

**Suggested Letter for stopping Glucosamine Prescriptions**

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Patient Name

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

Date

Dear………………..

**Important information about your prescription of glucosamine as a treatment for osteoarthritis.**

We are writing to you regarding the prescriptions you receive for glucosamine as a treatment for osteoarthritis

We want to let you know that prescriptions for this food supplement will no longer be available from your GP.

The reason is that Northumberland CCG, who is responsible for deciding how healthcare resources are used, has reviewed the clinical evidence available and decided that the use of glucosamine is not clinically effective.

I’m sorry if this an unexpected change however I am sure you will understand that the NHS has to make the best use of its resources and NHS North of Tyne has decided that instead of funding this product with uncertain benefit, the money could be used more effectively for other drugs and treatments.

You will find enclosed a leaflet which explains more about this decision and how you can still buy glucosamine from community pharmacists, health food shops and some supermarkets.

If you have any questions concerning this change, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

Yours sincerely

**Suggested Letter for stopping Vitamin & Mineral Prescriptions for ARMD**

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Patient Name

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

Date

Dear………………..

**Important information about your prescription for <<*Insert name of preparation>>***

We are writing to you regarding the prescriptions you receive for <<*name of preparation>>* a vitamin supplement for Age Related Macular Degeneration.

We want to let you know that prescriptions for this food supplement will no longer be available from your GP.

The reason is that Northumberland CCG, who is responsible for deciding how healthcare resources are used, has reviewed the clinical evidence available and decided that the use of vitamins for Age Related Macular Degeneration is not clinically effective.

I’m sorry if this an unexpected change however I am sure you will understand that the NHS has to make the best use of its resources and NHS North of Tyne has decided that instead of funding this product with uncertain benefit, the money could be used more effectively for other drugs and treatments.

You will find enclosed a leaflet which explains more about this decision and how you can still buy the vitamins from community pharmacists, health food shops and some supermarkets.

If you have any questions concerning this change, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

Yours sincerely

**Suggested Switch Letter for Carbomer 980 to Viscotears or Clinitas Eye Gel**

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Patient Name

1st line address

2nd line address

3rd line address

Postcode

Date

Dear………………..

**Medication Change**

We would like to inform you of a minor change to one of your medicines.

As a practice, our priority is always to strive to provide our patients with the best possible healthcare and, at the same time, support the NHS in ensuring that prescribing is cost effective. This allows us to ensure that funds are available to treat as many patients as possible.

**Your prescription for:**

* **Carbomer ‘980’ 0.2% Eye Drops, Apply xxx times a day**

**has been changed to**

* **Viscotears 2mg/g liquid gel or Clinitas Carbomer 0.2% eye gel, Apply xxx times a day**

We have decided to change to Viscotears/Clinitas because at the moment this is available at a much lower cost and so achieve better use of NHS resources. You should not notice any difference in effect. However, if you do experience any side effects or other problems then please contact the practice for advice.

Please finish your current supply before ordering your new prescription.

If you do not wish to have your prescription altered, please make a routine appointment to discuss this with your usual GP. If you have any other questions concerning this change please don’t hesitate to contact me at the above number.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,