



29 December 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Zemtard® (diltiazem) 240mg XL capsules

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: w/c 1 February 2021

Issue

1. Zemtard® (diltiazem) 240mg XL once daily capsules are out of stock until week commencing 1st February 2021.
2. Adizem® and Viazem® (diltiazem) XL 240mg once daily capsules remain available and are the only brands that can support the uplift in demand.
3. Zemtard® (diltiazem) 120mg XL capsules are unable to support the uplift in demand.

Advice and Actions

4. Where patients have insufficient supplies of Zemtard® (diltiazem) 240mg XL to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
 - work with local pharmacy teams to understand the availability of diltiazem 240mg XL capsules and prescribe accordingly by brand;
 - inform patients of any change in brand they receive and advise them to report any side effects or changes in their symptom control to their GP or community pharmacist; and
 - seek further guidance from secondary care specialists if further advice is needed, or complications arise.

Additional Information

5. Diltiazem does not have a narrow therapeutic index, however, [the BNF states that](#), 'different versions of modified-release preparations containing more than 60mg diltiazem hydrochloride may not have the same clinical effect. To avoid confusion between these different formulations of diltiazem, prescribers should specify the brand to be dispensed.'
6. Considering this advice, when switching patients between brands of diltiazem, clinicians should follow the advice given above and inform patients of any change in brand they receive and advise them to report any side effects or changes in their symptom control to their GP or community pharmacist.
7. Please refer to the BNF and Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for further information on alternative preparations:
 - [Diltiazem BNF](#)
 - [Zemtard® 240mg XL capsules SmPC](#)
 - [Adizem® 240mg XL capsules SmPC](#)
 - [Viazem® 240mg XL capsules SmPC](#)

Enquiries

8. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).