



24 September 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Nicorandil 10mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: 4th October 2024

Issue

1. There are limited supplies of nicorandil 10mg tablets until 4th October 2024.
2. Nicorandil 20mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Alternative treatments for angina pectoris also remain available.

Advice and Actions

4. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:
 - review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
 - consider prescribing nicorandil 20mg tablets, halved to provide a 10mg dose (off-label use for some brands) considering:
 - who will be administering the dose (the patient themselves or a carer);
 - their manual dexterity;
 - their ability to follow instructions to administer the medicine correctly;
 - counsel patients on how to halve a tablet, to only halve one tablet at the time of use, the benefits of using a pill cutter (which can be purchased from a pharmacy or other retail outlets) and to discard the unused half of the tablet;
 - if the above option is not considered appropriate, advice on alternative management options can be sought from specialists.

Additional Information

Clinical Information

5. Nicorandil is indicated in adults for the symptomatic treatment of patients with stable angina pectoris who are inadequately controlled or have a contraindication or intolerance to first-line anti-anginal therapies. The Zentiva 20mg tablet is licenced to be divided into equal doses of 10mg. Halving the Rivopharm 20mg tablet to provide a 10mg dose would be off-label use. Nicorandil tablets are packaged in blister strips in which each tablet is linked to a desiccant.

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

Links to further information

- [SmPC Nicorandil tablets](#)
- [BNF Nicorandil](#)
- [BNF Treatment summary for stable angina](#)
- [CKS Health topic for angina](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

6. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with SPS have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
7. We encourage prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

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).