



27 December 2024

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Isosorbide mononitrate 10mg, 20mg and 40mg tablets (immediate-release)

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: late February 2025

Issue

1. Isosorbide mononitrate 10mg and 20mg **immediate-release** (IR) tablets are in limited supply until late February 2025.
2. Isosorbide mononitrate 40mg IR tablets are out of stock until late February 2025.
3. Isosorbide mononitrate 30mg IR tablets remain available but cannot support any additional demand.
4. Isosorbide mononitrate **modified-release** (MR) tablets and capsules (available in strengths of 25, 40, 50 and 60mg) remain available and can support an increased demand (except 60mg capsules).
5. Isosorbide dinitrate IR tablets remain available but can only support a limited increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

6. Prescribers should not initiate new patients on isosorbide mononitrate **IR** tablets until the supply issues have resolved.
7. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date(s), prescribers should:
 - consider generically prescribing isosorbide mononitrate **MR** tablets or capsules, at equivalent dose, which can support the market during this time, if clinically appropriate, (see additional information section); and
 - ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on the change in product, dosage, and possible adverse events they may experience, particularly in the first few days, the most important being hypotension, tachycardia, and worsening headaches. They should be advised to contact their prescriber if they have concerns.
8. Advice should be sought from specialist team if the above options are not considered appropriate.

Additional Information

Isosorbide mononitrate IR tablets

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

9. Licensed for the prophylaxis of angina pectoris and for use as an adjunct in congestive heart failure. The recommended dosage ranges from 20 to 120mg daily in divided doses. One tablet is taken asymmetrically (to allow a nitrate low period), usually twice a day, but can be up to three times a day.

Isosorbide mononitrate MR tablets and capsules

10. Licensed for the prophylaxis of angina pectoris and taken once daily in the morning. The dose can be titrated to minimise the possibility of headache, by initiating the treatment with 30mg (half a 60mg tablet) for the first 2-4 days. Selection of a dose when switching should be done on case-by-case basis depending on treatment history, current disease control, and concerns about side effects. In practice, the MR preparations are used off label for heart failure, due to convenient once daily dosing.

Switching from an IR to an MR isosorbide mononitrate preparation

11. There is no definitive guidance on dose equivalence. A pragmatic approach would be to match the total daily dose of IR preparation as closely as possible to the MR preparation administered once daily in the morning. Where the dose cannot be exactly matched, prescribers should consider whether to dose slightly above to ensure symptom control is not compromised, or slightly under, if there are concerns about side effects such as headache and/or postural drop in blood pressure (see table). Patients should be monitored after the switch, and dose titrated accordingly.

ISMN IR (asymmetric dose)	ISMN MR (morning dose)
10mg twice a day	25mg or 30mg once a day
10mg three times a day	30 mg once a day
20mg twice a day	30mg or 40mg once a day
20mg three times a day or 30mg twice a day	60mg once a day
40mg twice a day	80mg once a day
40mg three times a day	120mg once a day

Links to further information

- [SmPC Isosorbide mononitrate tablets and capsules](#)
- [SmPC Isosorbide dinitrate tablets](#)
- [BNF Treatment summaries - Nitrates](#)
- [BNF Isosorbide mononitrate](#)
- [BNF Isosorbide dinitrate](#)
- [CKS Prescribing information - Nitrates](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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).