

Information about changes to medicines or treatments on the NHS: Changes to amiodarone prescribing

The NHS will be asking doctors to stop or greatly reduce the prescribing of some treatments. This is because the treatments are:

- Not as safe as other treatments OR
- Not as good (effective) as other treatments OR
- More expensive than other treatments that do the same thing.

This includes amiodarone. This document will explain why the changes are happening and where you can get more information and support.

What is amiodarone?

Amiodarone is an antiarrhythmic medicine that can be used to control a rapid or irregular heartbeat by slowing down the electrical signals sent through the heart.

Why will amiodarone not be prescribed anymore?

Taking amiodarone long-term is not usually recommended because of the risk of serious or life threatening side effects. This risk is known to increase over time. Consequently, it is useful to have a regular review to see whether the dose can be reduced or even stopped altogether.

What options are available instead of amiodarone?

There are other alternative medicines that are considered safer for long-term use if you still need a medicine to control your heart rate or rhythm.

Your doctor will talk to you about different options so that you can come to a joint decision about what option is best for you.

Where can I find more information and support?

- You can speak to your local pharmacist, GP or the person who prescribed the medication to you.
- Your local patient group
- The Patients Association can also offer support and advice:
www.patients-association.org.uk/ or call 020 8423 8999

Find out more about the medicines that are being stopped or reduced:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed/>

If you have any questions about amiodarone prescribing please email them to: england.medicines@nhs.net