



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/114

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

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 19/12/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Isosorbide mononitrate 10mg and 20mg **immediate-release** (IR) tablets are in limited supply until late February 2025.
- Isosorbide mononitrate 40mg IR tablets are out of stock until late February 2025.
- Isosorbide mononitrate 30mg IR tablets remain available but cannot support any additional demand.
- 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).
- Isosorbide dinitrate IR tablets remain available but can only support a limited increase in demand.

Actions Required

Prescribers should not initiate new patients on isosorbide mononitrate **IR** tablets until the supply issues have resolved.

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 Supporting information); 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.

Advice should be sought from specialist team if the above options are not considered appropriate.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

Supporting information

Isosorbide mononitrate IR tablets

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

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

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) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10 mg BD | 25mg or 30mg OD |
| 10 mg TDS | 30 mg OD |
| 20mg BD | 30mg or 40mg OD |
| 20 mg TDS or 30mg BD | 60mg OD |
| 40 mg BD | 80mg OD |
| 40mg TDS | 120mg OD |

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](#)

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.