

Isosorbide Mononitrate – Briefing paper for GPs/Nurses

You may already be aware of supply issues affecting patients on isosorbide mononitrate standard release tablets. The 20mg tablets are only made by one manufacturer with no stock available until at least June (possibly longer) due to a raw ingredient shortage. A small number of manufacturers make 10mg and 40mg tablets but stocks are either unavailable or in very short supply due to the increased demand nationally.

There is no obvious solution:

- Changing all patients to isosorbide dinitrate – not practical as stocks also limited due to very low usage of the drug.
- Changing all patients to M/R isosorbide mononitrate – not practical as a wholesale switch is likely to make the replacement product unavailable too.
- Changing all patients to an alternative drug – local cardiologists being asked for advice re this but already rumours of a potential shortage of nicorandil

Recommendations for now:

1. Issue all prescriptions for isosorbide mononitrate products on a separate prescription. This will allow patients to take this prescription to an alternative pharmacy if necessary.
2. Attach the suggested patient information sheet to each prescription for isosorbide mononitrate.
3. Make sure the patient understands that if they go to one pharmacy chain then another of the same chain will use the same warehouse so is unlikely to have stock so they will be best to try another pharmacy chain or an independent pharmacy
4. Patients/Pharmacies may need prescriptions amending if they have to use other strengths e.g. 2x10mg instead of a 20mg or ½ a 40mg tablet
5. If the patient is unable to obtain any isosorbide mononitrate then issue a temporary alternative M/R isosorbide mononitrate prescription, ensuring that the patient understands the change of dose.

Suggested Dose Conversions:

You may need to liaise with the dispensing pharmacy as to what brand of isosorbide mononitrate M/R they can obtain:

CURRENT DOSE	M/R STRENGTH AND DOSE	PRODUCTS (cost for 28 days treatment)
10mg twice a day	25mg or 30mg ONCE a day	Elantan LA 25mg caps (£3.40) Isodur XL 25mg caps (£4.63) Isotard XL 25mg tabs (£5.95) ½x Chemydur 60XL tabs (£5.24) ½x Cibral 60mg XL tabs (£11.42) ½x Imdur 60mg SR tabs (£15.75) ½x Monomil XL 60mg tabs (£5.24) ½x Xismox XL 60mg tabs (£8.27)
20mg twice a day	40mg, 50mg or 60mg ONCE a day	Ismo Retard 40mg SR caps (£9.10) Isotard XL 40mg tabs (£6.75) Monomax 40mg SR caps (£6.52) Elantan LA 50mg caps (£3.69) Isodur XL 50mg caps (£6.45) Isotard XL 50mg tabs (£6.75) Chemydur 60XL tabs (£3.49) Cibral 60mg XL tabs (£7.61) Imdur 60mg SR tabs (£10.50) Isib 60XL tabs (£8.15) Isotard XL 60mg tabs (£5.75) Monomax 60mg SR caps (£8.86) Monomil XL 60mg tabs (£3.49) Trangina XL 60mg tabs (£4.55) Xismox XL 60mg tabs (£5.51)
30mg twice a day	90mg (40mg+50mg OR 1+½ 60mg) ONCE a day	1x Isotard XL 40mg + 1x 50mg tabs (£13.50) OR other mixed combinations 1+½x Chemydur 60XL tabs (£5.24) 1+½x Cibral 60mg XL tabs (£11.42) 1+½x Imdur 60mg SR tabs (£15.75) 1+½x Monomil XL 60mg tabs (£5.24) 1+½x Xismox XL 60mg tabs (£8.27)
40mg twice a day	100mg (2x50mg OR 40mg+60mg) OR 120mg (2x60mg) ONCE a day	2x Elantan LA 50mg caps (£7.38) 2x Isodur XL 50mg caps (£12.90) 2x Isotard XL 50mg tabs (£11.50) 1x Monomax 40mg + 1x 60mg SR caps (£15.38) 2x Chemydur 60XL tabs (£6.98) 2x Cibral 60mg XL tabs (£15.22) 2x Imdur 60mg SR tabs (£21.00) 2x Isib 60XL tabs (£16.30) 2x Monomax 60mg SR caps (£17.72) 2x Monomil XL 60mg tabs (£6.98) 2x Trangina XL 60mg tabs (£9.10) 2x Xismox XL 60mg tabs (£11.02)

N.B. If using 1+½ of the 60mg product to give a 90mg dose, ensure that you prescribe one of the tablet formulations as the capsules obviously cannot be halved. Those listed are stated by the manufacturer to be scored to facilitate halving.

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20mg tablets are only made by one manufacturer with no stock available until at least June (possibly longer) due to a raw ingredient shortage.

A small number of manufacturers make 10mg and 40mg tablets but stocks are either unavailable or in very short supply due to the increased demand nationally.

There is no easy alternative product to change to as everyone changing over is likely to make that product go out of stock too.

Recommendations for now:

1. Issue all prescriptions for isosorbide mononitrate products on a separate prescription. This will allow patients to take this prescription to an alternative pharmacy if necessary.
2. Attach the patient information sheet to each prescription for isosorbide mononitrate.
3. Make sure the patient understands that if they go to one pharmacy chain then another of the same chain will use the same warehouse so is unlikely to have stock so they will be best to try another pharmacy chain or an independent pharmacy
4. If the patient is unable to obtain any isosorbide mononitrate then your GPs can issue a temporary alternative M/R isosorbide mononitrate prescription.

**Important information regarding
your isosorbide mononitrate
prescription:**

There is currently a national shortage of isosorbide mononitrate. This is likely to continue until at least June/July. We have issued this on a separate prescription as you may have to go to a different pharmacy to obtain this item.

We recommend that you try different pharmacy chains and independent pharmacies as they all use different wholesalers and have different stock availability.

If you are unable to get this item, please contact the practice.

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