



Switching to Apixaban (generics)

Important changes to your medication: Eliquis (apixaban), your blood thinning medicine

Information for patients

- Until recently, only one pharmaceutical manufacturer made Apixaban. It is now being made by several pharmaceutical manufacturers, so we have more versions of the same medicine.
- These new versions are known as 'generic equivalents'. They are the same as the original medicine and are cheaper for the NHS to buy.
- The dose (how often you take them), and the side effects of Apixaban generic, are the same as with Eliquis Apixaban.
- Generic Apixaban tablets may look different in size and shape. The outside of the tablet might be a different colour and there might be different markings. This depends on the brand who supply the tablets.
- The ingredients are the same.

How to take Apixaban

- Use up your current supply of Eliquis before starting generic Apixaban.
- Start generic Apixaban 12 hours after the last dose of Eliquis.
- Take your first dose of generic Apixaban at the same time you would normally take the next dose of Eliquis.
- Take generic Apixaban twice a day, ideally in the morning and the evening.
- Take generic Apixaban with or without food.
- If you find the tablets hard to swallow, you may crush or mix generic Apixaban with water, apple juice or apple puree immediately before taking them.

If you forget to take Apixaban

- Take the tablet as soon as you remember, as long as it is within 4-6 hours of taking your usual dose.
- If it is later than this (over six hours), skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time.
- **Do not take two doses together to make up for the missed dose.**

If you are not sure what to do, or have missed more than one dose of Apixaban, ask your Doctor, Pharmacist, or Nurse.



If you take too much Apixaban

- You may be at risk of bleeding if you take more Apixaban than you have been prescribed.
- Contact NHS 111 or tell your Doctor, Pharmacist, or Nurse immediately.

Further information

- Always read the patient information leaflet that comes with your medicine.
- If you have any questions about this change in medicine brand or would like to discuss it further, please speak to your clinical ward Pharmacist. Alternatively, contact your practice pharmacist or GP, or your local community Pharmacist.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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