



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2024/096

Nicorandil 10mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 19/09/2024

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- There are limited supplies of nicorandil 10mg tablets until 30th September 2024.
- Nicorandil 20mg tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
- Alternative treatments for angina pectoris also remain available.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- review patients to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy;
- consider prescribing nicorandil 20mg tablets, halved to provide a 10mg dose (off-label use for some brands) considering:
 - who will be administering the dose (the patient themselves or a carer);
 - their manual dexterity;
 - their ability to follow instructions to administer the medicine correctly;
- counsel patients on how to halve a tablet, to only halve one tablet at the time of use, the benefits of using a pill cutter (which can be purchased from a pharmacy or other retail outlets) and to discard the unused half of the tablet;
- if the above option is not considered appropriate, advice on alternative management options can be sought from specialists.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Nicorandil is indicated in adults for the symptomatic treatment of patients with stable angina pectoris who are inadequately controlled or have a contraindication or intolerance to first-line antianginal therapies. The Zentiva 20mg tablet is licenced to be divided into equal doses of 10mg. Halving the Rivopharm 20mg tablet to provide a 10mg dose would be off-label use. Nicorandil tablets are packaged in blister strips in which each tablet is linked to a desiccant.

Links to further information

[SmPC Nicorandil tablets](#)

[BNF Nicorandil](#)

[BNF Treatment summary for stable angina](#)

[CKS Health topic for angina](#)

Enquiries

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

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

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