

Generic Abiraterone

Oncology & Clinical Haematology

What is the purpose of this leaflet?

You will notice that there has been a change in the brand of abiraterone (hormone therapy drug) that you receive for prostate cancer. This leaflet will answer any questions you may have about this change.

What is happening with abiraterone for prostate cancer?

In October 2022, the patent protection on the original brand of abiraterone (Zytiga®) for prostate cancer came to an end. When a patent for a drug runs out, other pharmaceutical companies can make their own copy of the drug; these are referred to as 'generic' medicines. There is now a version of generic abiraterone available in the UK that is licensed for prostate cancer. To ensure we use NHS resources efficiently, we will be switching patients who are currently receiving Zytiga® to the generic version of the medicine. The NHS always tries to use generic drugs and this is normal for many health conditions.

What is a generic medicine?

A generic medicine is identical to a brand name drug. Although generic drugs are chemically identical to their branded counterparts, they typically cost much less than the branded price. Use of generic medicines, for example, antibiotics, painkillers, heart medicines and cancer medicines is very common in the NHS. Using generic medication allows the NHS to make considerable savings, which can be used to improve healthcare for all of us.

How can I be sure of the quality of generic abiraterone?

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA – <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency>) is the authority that regulates the use of medicines across the UK. Health professionals and patients can be assured that MHRA approved generic medicines have met the same standards as the original drug. To gain MHRA approval, a generic medicine must:

- Contain the same active ingredients as the original drug (inactive ingredients may vary)
- Be identical in strength, dosage form, and route of administration
- Meet the same batch requirements for identity, strength, purity, and quality
- Be manufactured under the same strict standards of good manufacturing practice regulations

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

required for the original product

What does this mean for me?

The generic medicine we are switching you to will contain the same active produce; abiraterone. You will continue getting the same amount of abiraterone at the same intervals. The treatment for your condition remains unchanged; we will monitor your disease activity as normal and there is no need for additional monitoring.

What if I experience problems after switching to generic abiraterone?

We do not expect any patients to experience any problems as a result of switching. However, if after the switch you do experience problems, then you can discuss this with your oncology specialist nurse or specialist doctor. Occasionally, some patients may experience some minor side effects when they take a new formulation of a drug. If these are problematic, then you should discuss this with the specialist team looking after you.

I am already on Zytiga® (the Janssen-Cilag brand of abiraterone); will I be switched to generic abiraterone?

Yes, the whole of the NHS will switch over to generic abiraterone. Although the timelines between different hospitals may vary, the plan across the NHS is to switch all patients on Zytiga® to generic abiraterone. You may notice that the tablets you receive come in different packaging. The colour, shape and markings on the tablets may also be different. Always read the directions on your medicines carefully so that you know how many tablets you should take. Take generic abiraterone acetate in the same way as your Zytiga abiraterone acetate; at least 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after food. Do not take the tablets with food. Swallow the tablets whole with water. Store generic abiraterone acetate tablets in the same way as your Zytiga® tablets; there are no special storage requirements.

What should I do if I want more information or I have concerns?

If you have any further concerns, please contact your oncologist, oncology pharmacist or specialist nurse.

Summary

- Generic versions of many drugs are used routinely in the NHS without problems
- All generic brands of abiraterone in the UK have been carefully reviewed and approved by the MHRA for their quality and safety
- You can be assured that all of the available generic brands of abiraterone will be just as good as Zytiga®

How to contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, or need further information about your medication, please contact:

- Your oncology team via hospital switchboard on 01902 307999

To find out more about our Trust, visit:
<http://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk>

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。