Switching to Dapagliflozin tablets- information for patients

This information has been prepared to support patients who have been identified as suitable for switching from their existing medicine (canagliflozin, empagliflozin or ertugliflozin) to dapagliflozin.

The NHS carries out regular reviews of medicines to make sure that patients continue to receive high quality and effective treatment that is cost effective to the NHS. As part of this review, you have been identified as suitable to have your current medicine switched to dapagliflozin. Dapagliflozin works in the same way as the medicine you currently take and is already used by many patients across the NHS.

What this treatment change means for you

- Your current medicine will be changed to **dapagliflozin tablets.**
- You will get the new medication automatically with your next repeat prescription.
- This new tablet may look different or have a different strength to the tablet you were prescribed before, but your GP has made sure you are getting the same effective dose.
- Before starting this new tablet, please finish taking the tablets you had previously been prescribed.
- Nearly all patients can switch treatment without noticing any difference.

Who is suitable for the switch to dapagliflozin tablets

- Adults aged over 18 years of age taking this medication for:
    - Type 2 diabetes
    - Heart failure
    - Chronic kidney disease (CKD) with type 2 diabetes
- Your GP practice has reviewed your medical record before confirming this treatment is suitable for you.

Who should not switch to dapagliflozin tablets

- If you have previously had side effects or not tolerated dapagliflozin
- If your kidney function is very low (we have checked this in the screening process)
- Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding
- If you have a history of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)
- If you take lithium tablets

How to take the new medication

- Please follow the directions that are provided on the medication box label. Ensure the tablets are taken with plenty of water.
- If you have any concerns taking this new medication, please consider asking your local community pharmacy team to support you. The pharmacists can support you by enrolling you onto their New Medicines Service and this will provide you with an

opportunity to discuss your new medicine and for them to follow up with you at regular intervals after you start taking it.

What to expect after switching medication

- Most people do not notice any difference after switching to dapagliflozin as the side effect profile is similar to your previous medicine.
- No extra blood tests will be needed as a result of the switch, and your usual monitoring will continue as normal.
- Patients on insulin or sulfonylureas (gliclazide, glipizide, glimepiride or Tolbutamide) who are currently to monitor their blood glucose levels at home are advised to do so closely after switching, to reduce the risk of low glucose levels. This is standard practice when adjusting any glucose lowering therapy.
- Dapagliflozin belongs to the same group of medicines as your current treatment (SGLT2 inhibitors). The possible side effects are therefore the same as those you have already been advised about, including a small increased risk of urine and genital infections. Very rarely, a serious infection called Fournier's gangrene has been reported with this medicine in this group. Please seek urgent medical help if you develop pain, redness, swelling, fever or anything unusual symptoms in the genital area.

When to seek advice from healthcare professionals:

- **A reminder for patients taking** either dapagliflozin, canagliflozin, empagliflozin or ertugliflozin of the sick day rules: temporarily stop canagliflozin, empagliflozin, ertugliflozin or dapagliflozin during acute illness, especially if you are too unwell to eat or drink. Stop this medicine 3 days prior to major surgery. Restart once you have fully recovered and are eating and drinking normally. This leaflet provides further information on how to manage when you are not feeling well. Diabetes and being ill | Managing when you're sick | Diabetes UK
- If you notice any new or worrying side-effects.
- If you would like to discuss the new medicine in more detail, contact a healthcare professional from your practice or community pharmacist.

Please refer to the following link for further information about this group of medicines. SGLT-2 inhibitors | Prescribing information | Diabetes - type 2 | CKS | NICE.

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