



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2020/065

Zemtard[®] (diltiazem) 240mg XL capsules

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 18/12/2020

Summary

- Zemtard[®] (diltiazem) 240mg XL once daily capsules are out of stock until week commencing 1st February 2021.
- Adizem[®] and Viazem[®] (diltiazem) XL 240mg once daily capsules remain available and are the only brands that can support the uplift in demand.
- Zemtard[®] (diltiazem) 120mg XL capsules are unable to support the uplift in demand.

Actions Required

Where patients have insufficient supplies of Zemtard[®] (diltiazem) 240mg XL to last until the re-supply date, clinicians should:

- work with local pharmacy teams to understand the availability of diltiazem 240mg XL capsules and prescribe accordingly by brand;
- inform patients of any change in brand they receive and advise them to report any side effects or changes in their symptom control to their GP; and
- seek further guidance from secondary care specialists if further advice is needed, or complications arise.

Supporting information

Diltiazem does not have a narrow therapeutic index, however, [the BNF states that](#), 'different versions of modified-release preparations containing more than 60mg diltiazem hydrochloride may not have the same clinical effect. To avoid confusion between these different formulations of diltiazem, prescribers should specify the brand to be dispensed.'

Considering this, when switching patients between brands of diltiazem, clinicians should follow the advice given above and inform patients of any change in brand they receive and advise them to report any side effects or changes in their symptom control to their GP.

Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on alternative preparations:

- [Diltiazem BNF](#)
- [Zemtard[®] 240mg XL capsules SmPC](#)
- [Adizem[®] 240mg XL capsules SmPC](#)
- [Viazem[®] 240mg XL capsules SmPC](#)

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/>