



MID AND SOUTH ESSEX MEDICINES OPTIMISATION COMMITTEE (MSEMOC)

DOXAZOSIN MODIFIED RELEASE (e.g. CARDURA® XL) PREPARATIONS

BLACK: NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PRESCRIBING IN PRIMARY, COMMUNITY OR SECONDARY CARE

Mid and South Essex CCGs do not support the prescribing of doxazosin modified release (e.g. Cardura® XL) preparations.

Doxazosin is available in both modified release (MR) and immediate release (IR) formulations.

Recommendations:

- Do not start new patients on doxazosin MR preparations.
- Switch existing patients from doxazosin MR to generic doxazosin IR.

Rationale:

- There is no good evidence of additional benefit of MR over IR doxazosin. Both formulations provide effective blood pressure control and are effective at controlling the symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia and improving maximum urinary flow rate.
- All formulations of doxazosin have a long half-life of 22 hours making it suitable for once daily dosing.
- The IR formulation of doxazosin is significantly more cost effective than the MR formulation.

Switch options when changing from MR to IR:

- Use the same dose (e.g. 4mg MR to 4mg IR; 8mg MR to 2 x 4mg IR) – patients experiencing orthostatic hypotension may need a lower dose.
- Use half the dose (e.g. 4mg MR to 2mg IR; 8mg MR to 4mg IR) – some patients may require a higher dose and subsequent dose titration may be required.

Regardless of the dose chosen, blood pressure should be monitored (approx. four weeks after the switch) and dose adjusted if necessary.

This position is supported by NHS England as part of the items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid and South Essex CCGs are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, as detailed in the medicines management service specification of their contract.

References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS England: Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. June 2019: https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/ PrescQIPP Bulletin 195: https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-195-doxazosin-mr/ PrescQIPP Bulletin 117: https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-117-drop-list/
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