

WARFANT 1MG TABLETS - INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

(21st July 2011)

The company that supplies Warfant 1mg tablets in Ireland may be unable to supply enough of these tablets over the next number of months. The HSE and the Irish Medicines Board have made alternative arrangements for patients who may be affected by this short supply.

WHY HAS MY PHARMACIST GIVEN ME A DIFFERENT BRAND OF WARFARIN TABLETS?

Supplies of Warfant 1mg tablets are restricted at the moment, so your Pharmacist has given you a different brand of warfarin 1mg tablet. This replacement tablet is called Warfarin Teva and is the only brand currently available for you.

IS IT SAFE TO TAKE A DIFFERENT BRAND OF MEDICINE?

Yes, and your Pharmacist and the HSE are making sure that you have enough medicine to continue your treatment. It's very important to keep taking warfarin to maintain your health, but you may need to take some simple steps in switching to the new brand of medicine.

WHAT WILL CHANGING BRAND MEAN FOR ME?

You will continue to take the same amount or dose of warfarin. You will need to have your INR blood test (clotting time) checked 5 to 7 days after you start taking the different brand of warfarin. This is because different brands of warfarin can have slightly different effects on your clotting system. It takes about a week before those differences can be detected by the INR blood test.

Your Doctor or Pharmacist will recommend the best time to start taking the Warfarin Teva brand medicine, based on how much of the old brand that you have left.

WHEN SHOULD I CHANGE BRANDS?

If you already have an INR test appointment scheduled, and you have enough of the Warfant 1mg brand to last until then, the best time to switch to the Warfarin Teva brand is 5 to 7 days before the appointment.

If you have no appointment or if you don't have enough Warfant 1mg to last until 5 to 7 days before your next appointment, you should contact the clinic or person who monitors your INR blood test to arrange an appointment.

Your clinic will need to know the date you started or intend starting the Warfarin Teva brand. You should record this date in your warfarin booklet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Your clinic will want to make sure that there has been no change in clotting effect and that you are still getting the correct dose of warfarin for you.

After the INR blood test, your Doctor may need to adjust your dose of warfarin to make sure it works best for you. Most patients will not need to change their dose of warfarin.

Once you have switched brands you should continue to take your new brand in the future unless your Doctor or Pharmacist advises you to change. You should return any leftover Warfant 1mg to your pharmacist for destruction.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS?

Further important information in relation to warfarin can be found in your warfarin booklet and in the patient information leaflet provided when warfarin is dispensed.

If you have any more questions, please ask your Pharmacist or your Doctor.