

Modified release morphine brand switch

Information for patients

The information provided in this leaflet is to help you understand why your modified release brand of morphine has been changed and will help answer some of your questions. If you would like more information about your medicine, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

Why has my prescription been changed from my usual morphine brand to Zomorph®?

In order to standardise product selection at King's College Hospital, the only modified release preparation of morphine available from 10mg strength upwards will be the twice daily Zomorph® brand.

As Zomorph® is not available in 5mg, we will continue to supply 5mg MST Continus® tablets. However, all other strengths and brands, for example, twice daily MST Continus®, Morphgesic® or once daily MXL®, will not be available from King's College Hospital.

If you were previously on another brand of modified release morphine, you will be supplied with the equivalent dose of twice daily Zomorph®.

Why has King's College Hospital changed their product selection of modified release morphine to the Zomorph® brand?

Zomorph® capsules may be swallowed whole with a glass of water. If patients have swallowing difficulties, the entire capsule contents can be sprinkled onto a spoonful of semi-solid food (such as plain yoghurt) and swallowed. This provides more options for patients who encounter difficulties with swallowing.

This switch will also bring King's College Hospital in line with many other local healthcare authorities who are also switching to the Zomorph® brand.

How will my new dose be calculated?

If you are on a twice daily preparation, your Zomorph® dose will be the same.

If you are on a once daily preparation, your total dose of morphine over 24 hours will be divided into two and administered as a twice daily dose of Zomorph®.

If you are on a dose which is a multiple of 5mg, such as 15mg twice a day, you will also be supplied with 5mg MST Continus® tablets alongside your Zomorph® capsules. Mixing brands in this way does not pose a clinical risk to patients.

Will I have the same level of pain relief with Zomorph® as I did with my previous brand?

Your clinical team will identify you as appropriate to switch to Zomorph®.

If you are an inpatient, the switch will ideally be made during your inpatient stay to allow for monitoring and any potential adjustments to your pain relief if needed. If the switch takes place close to when you are discharged, or you are an outpatient, you must monitor your pain relief requirements and any potential increase in side effects.

Side effects may include an increase in drowsiness or dizziness, or a decreased breathing rate (please also consult product literature for common side effects). If you find a significant increase in side effects compared to what you experienced on your old brand, you must inform your prescribing clinician or contact your clinical team.

Most patients who have made this switch have not reported any major concerns.

What do I do if I still have a supply of my old modified release morphine brands at home?

You should return any remaining stock to your community pharmacy team. Your old brand must NOT be taken alongside Zomorph®.

Zomorph® Preparations

Zomorph® is available from King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as:



Who to contact

For more information about any of the issues raised in this leaflet, please talk to the staff caring for you or your doctor or pharmacist, particularly if you find a significant increase in side effects mentioned such as drowsiness or dizziness, or a decreased breathing rate (please also consult product literature for common side effects).

The NHS 111 service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. It is available via phone (111) or online (www.111.nhs.uk) 24 hours a day.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.palsdh@nhs.net

You can also contact us by using our online form at www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals

PALS at Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington, Kent BR6 8ND

Tel: 01689 863252

Email: kch-tr.palspruh@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844