**Information about changes to medicines or treatments on the NHS: Changes to amiodarone prescribing**

The NHS will be asking doctors to stop or greatly reduce the prescribing of some treatments. This is because the treatments are:

* Not as safe as other treatments OR
* Not as good (effective) as other treatments OR
* More expensive than other treatments that do the same thing.

**This includes amiodarone.** This document will explain why the changes are happening and where you can get more information and support.

## What is amiodarone?

## Amiodarone is an antiarrhythmic medicine that can be used to control a rapid or irregular heartbeat by slowing down the electrical signals sent through the heart.

## Why will amiodarone not be prescribed anymore?

Taking amiodarone long-term is not usually recommended because of the risk of serious or life threatening side effects. This risk is known to increase over time. Consequently, it is useful to have a regular review to see whether the dose can be reduced or even stopped altogether.

## What options are available instead of amiodarone?

There are other alternative medicines that are considered safer for long-term use if you still need a medicine to control your heart rate or rhythm.

Your doctor will talk to you about different options so that you can come to a joint decision about what option is best for you.

## Where can I find more information and support?

* You can speak to your local pharmacist, GP or the person who prescribed the medication to you.
* Your local patient group: [add details or remove].
* The Patients Association can also offer support and advice: [www.patients-association.org.uk/](https://www.patients-association.org.uk/) or call 020 8423 8999

Find out more about the medicines that are being stopped or reduced: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed/>

**If you have any questions about amiodarone prescribing please email them to:** [add local details or remove]