

NHS Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System Area Prescribing Committee

Information about changes to medicines or treatments on the NHS: Changes to prescribing of Liothyronine Tablets

NHS Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System and its partner organisations will be asking doctors to change the prescribing of Liothyronine tablets to Liothyronine capsules from April 2022. This is because Liothyronine tablets are:

- Substantially more expensive than Liothyronine Capsules.

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

What is Liothyronine?

If you have an underactive thyroid gland, it means that your thyroid does not produce enough thyroid hormone. This is a condition known as hypothyroidism. Liothyronine restores the balance of thyroid hormone in your body. It is similar to thyroxine, the hormone which your body produces naturally. Although a medicine called levothyroxine is usually prescribed in preference to liothyronine for people with this condition, liothyronine can be given to those patients who are unable to use levothyroxine.

Why will Liothyronine tablets not be prescribed anymore?

Previously there was only one form of liothyronine available for prescription, the tablets, but a new capsule has now been developed which has been scientifically proven, by the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk), to be equivalent to the tablets.

Liothyronine tablets are much more expensive than the capsules but provide no more benefit to patients, so this is not good value for money.

Your doctor will change your prescription from liothyronine tablets to liothyronine capsules shortly, to ensure that money saved from using liothyronine capsules is then able to be used elsewhere in the NHS for the care of patients.

What do I do if my medicine has been changed and it's causing me problems?

You are very unlikely to have any problems changing from Liothyronine tablets to Liothyronine capsules as the two forms contain the same medicine and have been proven to be equivalent; however if you do have any concerns you should speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

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.
- National and local charities can offer advice and support.
- The Patients Association can also offer support and advice: www.patients-association.org.uk/ or call 020 8423 8999.
- Healthwatch: www.healthwatch.co.uk