**Information about changes to medicines or treatments on the NHS:** **Changes to** **Targinact® prescribing(Oxycodone and naloxone combination product)**

The NHS will be asking doctors to stop or greatly reduce the prescribing of some medicines from December 2017. This is because the medicines are:

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

**One of these medicines is Targinact®.**

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

## What is Targinact®

## Targinact® tablets contain a painkiller called oxycodone and a drug called naloxone. Oxycodone can cause constipation as a side effect so the naloxone is added to try to stop constipation from happening.

## Why does the NHS want to reduce prescribing of Targinact®?

Targinact® is very expensive compared to the cost of a painkiller and a laxative prescribed as separate tablets. Also Targinact® does not work better than the separate tablets, so it is not good value for money.

## What options are available instead of Targinact®

You can talk to your doctor about the options available so that you can come to a joint decision about what will be best to relieve your pain.

You may be prescribed a painkiller and a laxative, if needed, as separate tablets instead of Targinact®. You may not need the laxative as not everyone gets constipation as a side effect.

Oxycodone will still be available as one of the painkiller choices, where appropriate.

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

If you have problems with your new medicine(s) you should speak to your doctor who may suggest a different painkiller and/or laxative.

In exceptional circumstances Targinact® may continue to be prescribed if a consultant or other healthcare specialist supports this decision.

**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]
* National and local charities can offer advice and support, for example:
	+ Pain Concern: 0300 123 0789 <http://painconcern.org.uk/>
	+ Pain UK: <https://painuk.org>
* The Patients Association can also offer support and advice: [www.patients-association.org.uk/](http://www.patients-association.org.uk/) or call 020 8423 8999
* Healthwatch: [www.healthwatch.co.uk](http://www.healthwatch.co.uk)

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 Targinact® prescribing please email them to:** **england.medicines@nhs.net**