

Important Changes to your Medication: edoxaban / dabigatran / rivaroxaban

Switching to Apixaban

Information for patients

You have received this leaflet because you are taking a blood thinning medicine, such as:

- Lixiana® (edoxaban)
- Pradaxa® (dabigatran)
- Xarelto® (rivaroxaban)

Eliquis® (apixaban) is another blood thinning medicine. Until recently, only one manufacturer made apixaban. As it is no longer covered by a patent, apixaban is now available from other manufacturers. Their versions are known as generic equivalents. Using generic equivalents can be more cost-effective for NHS Wales.

Soon, you will receive prescriptions for apixaban **instead** of your current blood thinning medicine.

How the switch will happen

Your GP practice will contact you about switching to apixaban and provide you with more information.

How to take apixaban

- Use up your current supply of blood thinning medicine **before** starting the apixaban.
- Start the apixaban the day after you finish your current blood thinning medicine.
- Take your first dose of apixaban at the time you would normally take the next dose of your current blood thinning medicine.
- Take the apixaban twice a day, ideally in the morning and evening.
- You can take apixaban with or without food.
- If you find the tablets hard to swallow, it may help to crush and mix them with water, apple juice or apple puree immediately before taking them.

If you forget to take apixaban

Take the tablet as soon as you remember, unless it's nearly time for your next dose. In this case, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take 2 doses together to make up for the missed dose.

If you are not sure what to do or have missed more than one dose of apixaban, ask your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

If you take too much apixaban

You may be at risk of bleeding if you take more apixaban than you have been prescribed.

Contact NHS 111 Wales (<https://111.wales.nhs.uk/> or call 111) **or** tell your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse immediately.

Further information

Always read the patient information leaflet that comes with your medicine.

If you have any questions about this change in medicine or would like to discuss it further, please speak to your GP or practice pharmacist, or your local community pharmacist.