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
- 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/ or call 020 8423 8999
- Healthwatch: 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