



## Policy statement: Prescribing of doxazosin modified release is not supported

### Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group does not support the prescribing of doxazosin modified release tablets (Cardura XL)

Doxazosin is available in both modified release (MR) and immediate release (IR) formulations.

#### Recommendations:

- Do not start new patients on doxazosin MR tablets.
- Switch existing patients from doxazosin MR to generic doxazosin IR.

#### Rationale:

- There is no good evidence of additional benefit of modified release over immediate release doxazosin. Both formulations provide effective blood pressure control (doxazosin is recommended only as a fourth-line antihypertensive) and are effective at controlling the symptoms of Benign Prostate Hyperplasia and improving maximum urinary flow rate.
- All formulations of doxazosin have a long half-life of 22 hours making it suitable for once daily dosing.
- The IR version of doxazosin is significantly more cost effective.

#### Switch options when changing from MR to IR:

- 1) Use the same dose (e.g. 4mg MR to 4mg IR, and 8mg MR to 2 x 4mg IR) - patients experiencing orthostatic hypotension may need a lower dose.
- 2) Use half the dose (e.g. 4mg MR to 2mg IR, and 8mg MR to 4mg IR) - some patients may require a higher dose.

Regardless of the dose chosen, please monitor blood pressure (about 4 weeks after the switch) and adjust the dose if necessary.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid-Essex CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the Mid-Essex CCG formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification).

See Mid-Essex CCG website – Medicines Optimisation page for all prescribing guidance.

<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/medicines-optimisation>

Title	<b>Doxazosin MR Prescribing policy statement</b>
Document reference	DoxazosinMRPOL201706V1.0FINAL
References	Prescipp bulletin 117 DROP-list July 2015 <a href="https://www.prescipp.info/drop-list/send/52-drop-list/2047-bulletin-117-drop-list">https://www.prescipp.info/drop-list/send/52-drop-list/2047-bulletin-117-drop-list</a>
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Previous version	Key Changes
-	New guidance