

ISENTRESS® tablets, which contain the drug raltegravir, are available in a new formulation to enable the tablets to be taken ONCE daily. Your specialist is suggesting that you change to this new formulation so that you would need to take **TWO 600mg tablets ONCE a day** instead of ONE 400mg tablet TWICE a day, with your other antiretrovirals.'



Will the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets work in the same way?

Yes, provided you take the recommended dose of 1200mg (**2 x 600mg tablets ONCE a day**), the new tablets should work in the same way as both tablets contain the same active drug, raltegravir.

Why am I being asked to take a different daily dose of the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets compared to the ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 400mg tablets i.e. 1200mg vs. 800mg?

To enable the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets to be taken only once daily, the tablets have been specially formulated to be processed by the body to ensure that the level of drug in your body remains high enough for the drug to continue to work over a 24 hour period. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to take a slightly higher daily dose when taking the drug once daily than when taking it twice daily.

What will the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablet look like?

The new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets will be yellow and oval shaped. They will be marked with the manufacturer, Merck's, logo and '242' on one side and plain on the other side.

Will there be any side effects when I switch?

You shouldn't expect any new side effects when you start taking the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets as they contain the same drug as the ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 400mg tablets. However, the tablets contain some different inactive ingredients, such as colourings. If you think that you may be allergic/sensitive to any of the ingredients in the new 600mg tablets, please let your doctor, pharmacist or specialist nurse know before you start to take them. Please also speak to them should you experience any new side effects once you have started the new 600mg tablets.

How do I switch to the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets?

Once you have used up your current supply of ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 400mg tablets, you can switch to the single daily dose of the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets at your next scheduled dose.

For example, if you take your last 400mg tablet in the evening, you should take the first dose of the 600mg tablets (2 x 600mg tablets) the following morning. You should then continue to take **2 tablets ONCE daily in the morning** thereafter.

Conversely, if you take your last 400mg tablet in the morning, you should take the first dose of the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets (2 x 600mg tablets) in the evening. You should then continue to take **2 tablets ONCE daily in the evening** thereafter.

If you wish to switch the time at which you take your new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets from the morning to the evening or vice versa, please speak to your doctor, pharmacist or specialist nurse.

How do I take the ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets?

TWO ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets should be taken together ONCE daily.

The tablets should be taken by mouth, swallowed whole. They should not be chewed, crushed or split as this may alter the level of the drug in your body. The tablets may be taken with or without food.

What happens if I receive my medicines by home delivery?

At your next clinic appointment, your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will explain the changes to you. It will then be likely that either on your next delivery, or the one after, you will receive the new ISENTRESS® (raltegravir) 600mg tablets.