

Switching from Atripla to Truvada and efavirenz

If you are currently taking Atripla we are asking you to switch from the single tablet to two separate tablets: Truvada and efavirenz (both of which are in Atripla)



Why am I being asked to switch to the individual medicines of Atripla?

When the patent (licence) for a branded medicine expires, other companies are allowed to manufacture the medicine. These products are called generic medicines. Generics are just as carefully regulated and as effective as the originals, but are often significantly cheaper to the NHS. By switching from Atripla to Truvada and the generic equivalent efavirenz tablet you will still receive the same high quality, effective treatment. You will also help your clinic and the NHS save money.

Will the individual tablets work in the same way as the Atripla brand?

As long as you continue to take the individual tablets as prescribed by your doctor then they will work in the same way as the ingredients are identical. Both versions have high production quality and are manufactured to the same standard.

What are the main changes that I will notice?

Instead of taking one tablet per day you will take two. The shape, size and colour of the tablets will be different to Atripla and are shown above. They will come in different packaging and will have a different manufacturer, which may change in the future. The individual medicines will always have the generic drug name and strength on the box/bottle, and this will not change unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you.

How do I take the separate medicines?

The two separate tablets should be taken together once a day, and can be taken at the same time as you took Atripla.

Will there be any side effects when I switch?

You shouldn't expect any new side effects when you start taking the new tablets, as they contain the same active drugs. Occasionally some people may experience some minor side effects when they take a different version of a tablet. You may experience some vivid dreams or sleep disturbances for a few days after switching, but these should settle.

How do I switch to the individual tablets?

Once you have used up your current supply of Atripla tablets you should switch to the two individual tablets at your next scheduled dose. You should not take the Atripla and the separate versions together.

I'm on home delivery, how does this affect me?

You will receive the separate tablets with your next delivery. Wherever possible you will receive the same brands of the individual medicines.

If you have a question about Atripla, Truvada, efavirenz or any of your medicines, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse:

Contact:

Telephone: