

Information for people switching from Evotaz[®] to generic atazanavir and cobicistat.



Evotaz[®] is the brand name of the medication you are taking which contains the active drugs atazanavir and cobicistat. You are being asked to switch from Evotaz to the separate medicines: atazanavir and cobicistat.

Why am I being asked to change my treatment?

NHS England & Improvement has changed the way it purchases HIV medicines from suppliers. As part of the new procurement, HIV treatment will be purchased from suppliers under a national agreement. This means that access to HIV medications will be the same for people living with HIV across the country. Combination products such as Evotaz are no longer routinely recommended, as the individual components of these combination products are now available to the NHS at a significantly reduced cost.

Will atazanavir and cobicistat taken separately work the same way as Evotaz?

Yes. Atazanavir and cobicistat should work in the same way as Evotaz as long as both atazanavir and cobicistat are taken together alongside any additional antiretroviral medication you are taking.

What will the new atazanavir and cobicistat medicines look like?

Cobicistat is an orange, round, biconvex, film-coated tablet, debossed with "GSI" on one side and plain-faced on the other side of the tablet. The colour and shape of your atazanavir capsule may change from time to time depending on which generic manufacturer your hospital is using. This is why it is so important to read the packaging and the label to ensure you are always taking one atazanavir capsule and one cobicistat tablet once a day.

Will there be any side effects when I switch?

As atazanavir and cobicistat are the two active medicines within Evotaz there is no expected side effects, but do speak to your clinic doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you experience any new side effects.

How do I take atazanavir and cobicistat?

- As soon as your Evotaz runs out you should then switch to the atazanavir capsule and cobicistat tablet.
- Atazanavir and cobicistat should be swallowed whole with a drink such as water or milk.
- You must take **both** atazanavir and cobicistat **together** at the same time every day alongside any other antiretroviral you may be taking.
- It is recommended to take atazanavir and cobicistat with food to ensure the medication is absorbed and to improve how the medication is tolerated. However this is not critical and it can be taken without food.
- **Interactions with other medicines:** Atazanavir and cobicistat can interact with other medicines, herbal, complementary or over the counter medicines that you might buy. In particular medicines such as steroids, statins used to treat cholesterol and antidepressants. It is important that you tell the doctor, pharmacist or nurse about any medicines you are taking so that they can check that they are compatible. Make sure you read the patient information leaflet you received with your HIV medicines for a full list.

If you have any questions about atazanavir and cobicistat please contact your clinic doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Contact:

Telephone number: