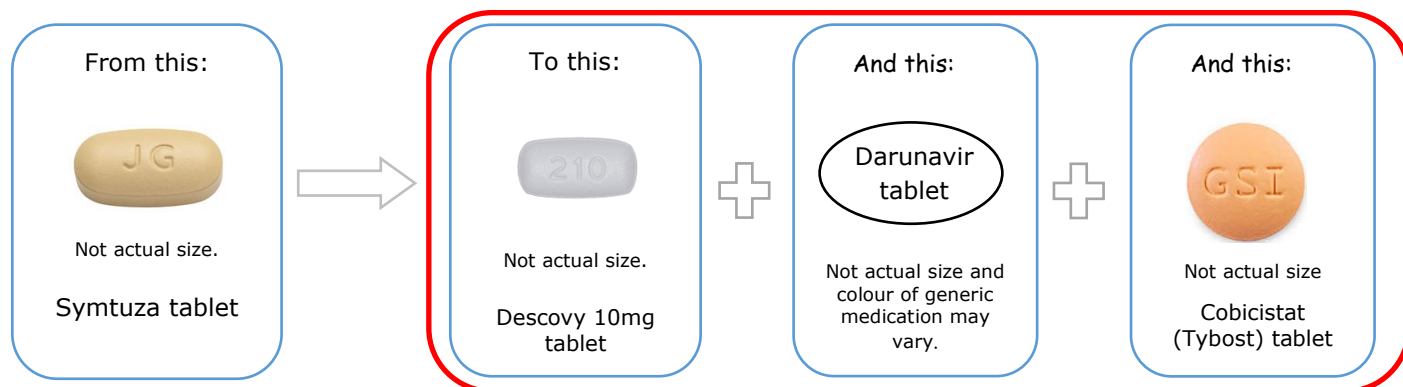


Information for people switching from Symtuza® to Descovy with cobicistat (Tybost) and generic darunavir.



Symtuza® is the brand name of the medication you are taking which contains the active drugs tenofovir alafenamide, emtricitabine, cobicistat and generic darunavir. You are being asked to switch from Symtuza to three separate tablets: Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat (Tybost). Descovy is the brand name containing the active drugs tenofovir alafenamide and emtricitabine which are also contained in Symtuza.

What is a 'generic' drug?

When a drug company makes a new medicine, it is controlled under a patent. It has an approved, or generic name, as well as its own brand name, chosen by the company. For example ibuprofen is the generic name and Nurofen® is the brand name. Once the patent runs out, other drug companies can make the drug at a lower cost. These are called 'generic' drugs. The NHS always tries to use generic drugs. This is normal practice for most health conditions. If you are on medications prescribed by your GP for another condition, you may have always been prescribed generic drugs or been switched to generic drugs in the past, as it is standard procedure within the NHS.

Will Descovy, cobicistat (Tybost) and generic darunavir work the same way as Symtuza?

Yes. They should all work in the same way as Symtuza as long as all three medicines (Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat) are taken together alongside any additional antiretroviral medication you are taking.

What will the new Descovy, cobicistat (Tybost) and generic darunavir tablets look like?

Descovy is a grey rectangular shaped film coated tablet with 'GSI' on one side and '210' on the other side, there are two available strengths of Descovy, but you should always have the 10mg while you are taking darunavir and cobicistat. Cobicistat (Tybost) 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 darunavir tablet 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.

Will there be any side effects when I switch?

As Descovy, cobicistat (Tybost) and generic darunavir are all contained within Symtuza 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 Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat (Tybost) tablets?

- As soon as your Symtuza runs out you should then switch to the Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat tablets.
- Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat (Tybost) should be swallowed whole with a drink such as water or milk.
- You must take **all** tablets **together** at the same time every day alongside any other antiretrovirals.
- It is recommended to take Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat (Tybost) with food to ensure the medication is absorbed and improves how they are tolerated. However this is not critical and it can be taken without food.
- **Interactions with other medicines:** Descovy with darunavir + cobicistat (Tybost) 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 Descovy, darunavir and cobicistat (Tybost) please contact your clinic doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Contact:

Telephone number: