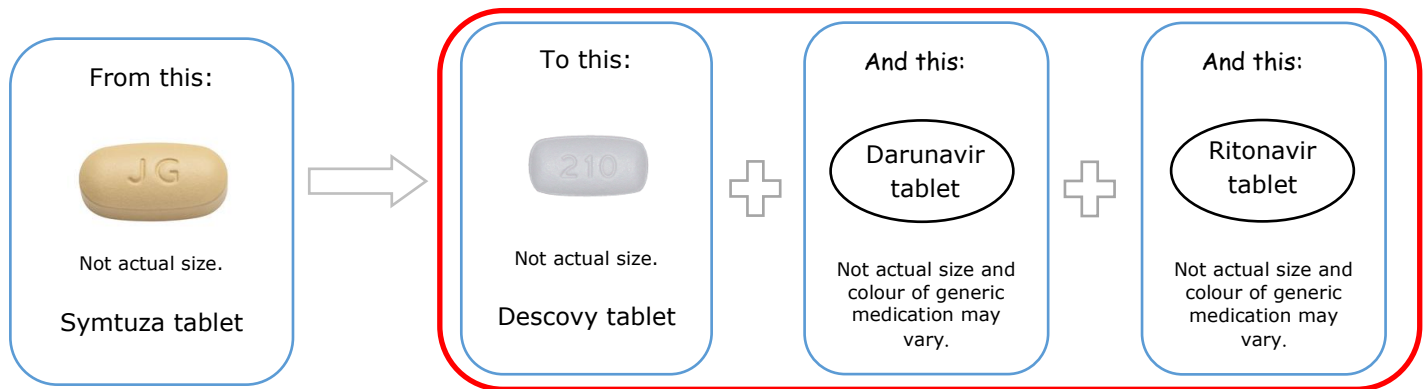


Information for people switching from Symtuza® to Descovy with generic darunavir and ritonavir.



Symtuza® is the brand name of the medication you are taking which contains the active drugs tenofovir alafenamide, emtricitabine, darunavir and cobicistat. You are being asked to switch from Symtuza to three separate tablets: Descovy, darunavir and ritonavir. 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, darunavir and ritonavir 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 ritonavir) are taken together alongside any additional antiretroviral medication you are taking.

What will the new Descovy, darunavir and ritonavir tablets look like?

Descovy is a grey rectangular shaped film coated tablet with 'GSI' on one side and '210' on the other side. Darunavir and ritonavir are both generic medicines therefore the colour and shape of these tablets 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?

Descovy, darunavir with ritonavir has a similar side effect profile to Symtuza, but do speak to your clinic doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you experience any new side effects.

How do I take Descovy, darunavir and ritonavir tablets?

- As soon as your Symtuza runs out you should then switch to the Descovy, darunavir and ritonavir tablets.
- Descovy, darunavir and ritonavir 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 antiretroviral you may be taking.
- It is recommended to take Descovy, darunavir and ritonavir 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:** Both Symtuza and Descovy with darunavir + ritonavir 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 ritonavir please contact your clinic doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Contact:

Telephone number: