

Prescribing tip for actioning by practice team



Discontinuation of Glibenclamide Tablets

Wockhardt have discontinued glibenclamide tablets. They do not have any stock remaining. There are no other manufacturers in the market.

Glibenclamide is a long acting sulfonylurea licensed for the treatment of non-insulin dependent diabetes in patients who respond inadequately to dietary measures alone. Use of glibenclamide has declined over the years because of a significantly greater risk of hypoglycaemia, particularly in the elderly, due to its dependence on renal excretion and tendency to accumulate in people with impaired renal function. The number of patients still treated with glibenclamide is likely to be low.

There are several other sulfonylureas available: gliclazide, glimepiride, glipizide, and tolbutamide.

Sulfonylurea	Daily dose	Dose equivalence to 5mg glibenclamide
Glibenclamide	2.5- 15mg	
Gliclazide	40 to 320mg	80mg ³
Glipizide	2.5-20mg	5mg ¹
Glimepiride	1-6mg	No data
Tolbutamide	0.5-2g	1g ¹

Blood sugars and hypoglycaemia symptoms should be monitored more closely after a switching treatment and doses titrated accordingly.

If it is not considered appropriate to switch patients, unlicensed imports of glibenclamide tablets are available.

One specific situation where glibenclamide is the preferred sulfonylurea is in neonatal diabetes resulting from a mutation in the 2 genes encoding the K_{ATP} channel. This condition is very rare and should one of your patients require glibenclamide for this, please contact the Medicines Optimisation Team for discussion about further management.

Action for Practices:

- Identify patients currently prescribed glibenclamide;
- Clinicians to review and consider switch to one of the alternative sulfonylureas available;
- Contact the Medicines Optimisation Team should any further information be required.

Reference:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/discontinuation-of-glibenclamide-2-5-and-5-0-mg-tablets/> accessed 7/11/19

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302