

Action sheet

Standard Operating Procedure for switching Keppra preparations to generic Levetiracetam preparations

Important: This is for use by practice supporting pharmacy teams across Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB

The information in this sheet should be read in conjunction with the detailed information in the BNF and the products' Summary of Product Characteristics

<p>Action(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribe generic levetiracetam tablets/oral solution for all new patients who require treatment with levetiracetam • Review all patients currently prescribed Keppra tablets/oral solution and switch, where appropriate, to generic levetiracetam tablets/oral solution <p>It is recommended that any switches/changes to medication are only made by appropriately qualified registered Health Care Professionals. Where this is not possible the practice must ensure governance arrangements are in place and that safe practice is followed at all times.</p> <p>Any switch should be tailored to the individual patient</p>
<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Generic prescribing is recognised as a sign of good practice in terms of consistency and safety, as well as generally being more cost effective. It allows any suitable generic (or equivalent branded product) to be dispensed, reduces the number of items to be held as stock in the pharmacy and can potentially reduce the delays in supplying medicines to the patient.</p> <p>Antiepileptic drugs have been divided into three risk-based categories to help healthcare professionals decide whether it is necessary to maintain continuity of supply of a specific manufacturer's product. Levetiracetam is a category 3 antiepileptic drug. MHRA/CHM (2017) advises: For these drugs, it is usually unnecessary to ensure that patients are maintained on a specific manufacturer's product as therapeutic equivalence can be assumed, however, other factors are important when considering whether switching is appropriate. Differences between alternative products (e.g. product name, packaging, appearance, and taste) may be perceived negatively by patients and/or carers, and may lead to dissatisfaction, anxiety, confusion, dosing errors, and reduced adherence. In addition, difficulties for patients with co-morbid autism, mental health problems, or learning disability should also be considered.</p> <p><i>MHRA/CHM advice: Antiepileptic drugs: updated advice on switching between different manufacturers' products (November 2017)</i></p>

	<p>Price comparison</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Drug/Appliance (Brand / Branded generic)</th> <th>Strength</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="5">Keppra</td> <td>250mg tablets</td> <td>£28.01 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500mg tablets</td> <td>£49.32 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>750mg tablets</td> <td>£84.02 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1g tablets</td> <td>£95.34 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100mg/ml oral solution</td> <td>£66.95 for 300ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="5">Levetiracetam *</td> <td>250mg tablets</td> <td>£2.11 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500mg tablets</td> <td>£3.37 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>750mg tablets</td> <td>£4.39 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1g tablets</td> <td>£6.06 for 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100mg/ml oral solution</td> <td>£7.45 for 300ml</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>*Cost correct as per Drug Tariff: May 2023</i></p>	Drug/Appliance (Brand / Branded generic)	Strength	Cost	Keppra	250mg tablets	£28.01 for 60	500mg tablets	£49.32 for 60	750mg tablets	£84.02 for 60	1g tablets	£95.34 for 60	100mg/ml oral solution	£66.95 for 300ml	Levetiracetam *	250mg tablets	£2.11 for 60	500mg tablets	£3.37 for 60	750mg tablets	£4.39 for 60	1g tablets	£6.06 for 60	100mg/ml oral solution	£7.45 for 300ml
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Medication to be Switched	Keppra to generic Levetiracetam																									
Search	Run a search on the GP system to identify any patients taking Keppra preparations as listed above.																									
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients identified as having difficulty accepting changes to medication regimes. • Patients previously tried the switch with a documented reason for changing back • Patients with a documented allergy / intolerance to Levetiracetam or any of its excipients • Patients on the palliative care register can be switched at the discretion of their GP. • Patients under 18 years of age <p>Further advice can be obtained from the electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/ or the MHRA https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency</p>																									
Cautions	Refer to the current BNF and https://reference.medscape.com/drug-interactionchecker or https://www.webmd.com/interaction-checker/default.htm for further information on drug interactions																									

New Medication	Levetiracetam, to be prescribed at same dose/frequency as previous preparation. Use the 'replace' button function on Emis and add reason for replacement as 'cost effective switch' Add correct replacement drug, dosage, quantity and prescription type
Emis consultation entry	Code consultation entry as ' medication change to generic ' Consultation entry to make - Patient reviewed in line with LSCMMG position statement and Keppra switched to Levetiracetam. Patient medication record amended by and contact made with patient to advise them of the change in medication.
Follow Up	At next routine planned medication review or sooner if required.
Communication to Patients	The preferred method of communication with patients should be agreed with the individual practice. A sample patient letter is attached on Appendix 1. Suggested wording to include in a text message is included in Appendix 2.

Wish to acknowledge Hull, East Riding CCG, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire CCG and Calderdale CCG in the production of the content of this document.

Appendix 1

Example letter only

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Patient Name,
Address.

Date

Dear Title Surname,

Change to Your Prescription for Keppra

Along with other GPs within our locality we are reviewing patients who are currently prescribed Keppra. This is to ensure our patients continue to receive quality treatment but also use NHS resources in the most cost effective manner.

You are currently prescribed Keppra
This treatment has been reviewed by your doctor and changed to Levetiracetam.

Please finish your current supply of Keppra medication before starting your new Levetiracetam medication.

As a practice we are constantly reviewing our repeat prescriptions to ensure that our patients get the most cost-effective treatment available, without affecting the quality of their care. This choice is also supported by **Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board**

If you have any queries regarding this change please contact **[insert details]** who will be able to direct you to the most appropriate person to deal with your query.

On behalf of the Doctors

Appendix 2

Suggested text wording

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