

Information about changes to medicines or treatments on the NHS: **Changes to dronedarone prescribing**

The NHS will be asking doctors to stop or greatly reduce the prescribing of some treatments. This is because the treatments are:

- Not as safe as other treatments OR
- Not as good (effective) as other treatments OR
- More expensive than other treatments that do the same thing.

This includes dronedarone.

This document will explain why the changes are happening and where you can get more information and support.

What is dronedarone used for?

Dronedarone is used by people with an abnormal heart rhythm, after they have had a procedure called cardioversion. Cardioversion involves passing one or more low energy electric currents through the heart under anaesthetic to put the heart back into a normal rhythm. Dronedarone is used to maintain the normal rhythm after the procedure.

Why will dronedarone not be prescribed anymore?

Dronedarone is associated with some dangerous side effects. The risks of these side effects outweigh the benefits of treatment for some people. Therefore dronedarone is only suitable in specific circumstances. It is not suitable for everyone.

What options are available instead?

There are several options for alternative medicines that control the rate or the rhythm of your heart available.

Your doctor will talk to you about the different options so that you can come to a joint decision about which treatment is best for you.

Where can I find more information and support?

- You can speak to your local pharmacist, GP or the person who prescribed the medication to you.
- The Patients Association can also offer support and advice: www.patients-association.org.uk/ or call 020 8423 8999

Find out more about the medicines that are being stopped or reduced:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed/>