



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2023/045

Alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 12/04/2023

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- There is limited supply of alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets until w/c 15th May 2023.
- Alternative alpha-adrenoceptor blockers licensed for the symptomatic treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) and for off-label use in acute urinary retention associated with BPH remain available.

Actions Required

Clinicians in primary and secondary care should:

- not initiate new patients on alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets until the supply issue has resolved;
- consider prescribing for new patients or patients currently on alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets who have insufficient stock until the resupply date:
 - tamsulosin modified release tablets or capsules (400 micrograms once daily) or;
 - where the above option is not suitable, doxazosin immediate release tablets, titrating the dose up to achieve the desired effect.
- Note that prescribing alternative alpha-adrenoceptor blockers for the indication of acute urinary retention associated with BPH is off-label.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Alfuzosin is an alpha-adrenoceptor blocker licensed for the symptomatic treatment of BPH. The recommended dose of alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets is one 10mg tablet to be taken once daily. Other alpha-adrenoceptor blockers licensed for this indication are suitable alternatives.

When selecting an alternative alpha-adrenoceptor blocker, the following should be considered:

- Modified release tamsulosin is more uroselective than doxazosin.
- Within this class, only alfuzosin 10mg modified release tablets are licensed for acute urinary retention associated with BPH, taken from the first day of catheterisation, for 3-4 days (2-3 days

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

during catheterisation and 1 day after its removal). However, the [BNF](#) notes that alternative alpha-adrenoceptor blockers such as tamsulosin and doxazosin can be given for at least two days to manage acute urinary retention (off-label use).

Please refer to the links below for further information:

[SmPC Alfuzosin](#)

[SmPC Tamsulosin](#)

[SmPC Doxazosin](#)

[BNF Alfuzosin](#)

[BNF: Urinary retention](#)

[NICE CKS guidance: Alpha-blockers](#)

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.