**SPACE for Trust Logo**

**Imatinib generic Patient Information Sheet**

**Imatinib product ….……………………………..prescribed by ……………………………….(hospital/clinic)**

**What is Imatinib?**

Imatinib is a type of cancer growth blocker called a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI). Tyrosine kinases are proteins that cells use to signal to each other to grow. They act as chemical messengers and blocking them stops the cancer cells growing.

**What is imatinib used for?**

Imatinib is used to treat acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in adults and children that is Philadelphia chromosome positive. In adults, it is used for disease that has recurred (come back) or is refractory (has not responded to earlier treatment).

**What versions of imatinib are available in the UK?**

The first imatinib preparation licensed and made available in England was sold under the brand name Glivec. But now there are several new versions available made by different manufacturers. These are known as generic imatinib versions.

**Understanding generic medicines**

A generic medicine is an exact copy of a chemically synthesised original licensed medicine. Generic medicines are considered directly interchangeable with the original branded medicine. Generic medicines have to show the UK regulator of medicines that they have the same quality, safety and effectiveness as the original brand. The active ingredient, in this case imatinib, is the same but excipients (other, inactive tablet contents) may be different and vary according to the manufacturer.

**The benefits of generic medicines**

Generic medicines may be considerably cheaper than the original branded medicine and therefore represent better value to the NHS. The savings made by using generic medicines allow the NHS to treat more patients.

**What does treatment with generic imatinib mean for you?**

When you receive your next prescription of imatinib, the medicine packaging may look different, and the tablet may be a different shape or colour. However, the amount of imatinib will be the same as your previous version. You would not expect any difference in treatment effectiveness or side effects, but if you do have any issues, please discuss these with your clinical or pharmacy team.

**Side effects**

There is no reason to expect any more, or different, side effects when you switch to a different version, unless you have an allergy or intolerance to one of the ingredients. If you feel the change of product has led to side effects that you have not previously suffered, please speak to your clinical team.

**What are the differences between the original brand Glivec and generic versions of imatinib?**

The active medicine used to treat your condition is the same in all the versions, but there can be differences in the excipients (other, inactive tablet contents).

Excipients are not intended to have an effect on the human body but it is possible that some people have an allergy or intolerance to specific excipients. If you know you have an allergy or intolerance, let your clinical team know.

Some excipients are of animal origin. Some people with cultural or religious beliefs may prefer preparations without these excipients, if possible.

The table below lists the excipients in some of the imatinib preparations available in England. It is not expected that all the preparations will be available in the hospital where you are receiving treatment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Excipient content** |
| Name and manufacturer | Microcrystalline cellulose (E460) | Crospovidone /Crospovidone (Type A) E1201 | Hypromellose | Magnesium stearate (E572) | Silica, colloidal anhydrous | Povidone (E1201) | Calcium hydrogen phosphate | Low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose E463 | Lactose | Hypromellose / Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose | Talc | Iron oxide yellow (E172) | Macrogol | Iron oxide red (E172) | Titanium dioxide (E171) | Polyvinyl alcohol | Polyethylene glycol | Animal derivatives |
| Imatinib Accord film-coated tablets: **Accord Healthcare Ltd**  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |  |  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  |  | Checkmark |  |
| Imatinib film-coated tablets: **Amarox Ltd** |  |  |  | Checkmark |  |  |  |  |  | Checkmark | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  |  |  |
| Imatinib film-coated tablets: **Dr. Reddy’s Labs (UK) Ltd** |  |  |  | Checkmark |  |  |  |  |  | Checkmark | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  |  | **?** |
| Imatinib film-coated tablets: **Sandoz Limited** | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |  |  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |  |  |
| Imatinib film-coated tablets: **Teva UK Ltd** |  | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  |  | Checkmark |  |  |  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |
| Imatinib Zentiva film-coat tablets: **Zentiva** | Checkmark | Checkmark |  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  | Checkmark |  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |  |  |
| Imatinib film-coated tablets (Glivec): **Novartis UK ltd** | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |  |  | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark | Checkmark |  |  |  |  |

**Further advice**

If you have further questions about the product you have been prescribed, please speak to a member of your clinical or pharmacy team. They can be contacted on

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