

Diltiazem Substitution Policy

The BNF states that '*different versions of modified-release preparations containing more than 60 mg diltiazem hydrochloride may not have the same clinical effect. To avoid confusion between these different formulations of diltiazem, prescribers should specify the brand to be dispensed*'.

Local interpretation of this advice, following assessment of the published pharmacokinetics of various preparations, is that products with different drug release profiles (and thus dosing schedules) should not be used interchangeably (e.g. a twice-daily preparation should not be used in place of a once-daily preparation).

However, diltiazem products with the same dosing schedule may be used interchangeably (e.g. any of the preparations listed in the boxes below may be substituted with any other preparation from the same box at the same dose). This allows Pharmacy procurement to react to contract/price changes to ensure that we stock the most cost effective brands, and avoids missed doses.

Once-daily preparations

Preparations within this box may be used interchangeably at the same dose

Adizem-XL[®] capsules: 120mg, 180mg, 200mg, 240mg, 300mg

Angitil XL[®] capsules: 240mg, 300mg

Slozem[®] capsules: 120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg

Tildiem LA[®] capsules: 200mg, 300mg

Uard 120XL[®] capsules: 120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg

Viazem XL[®] capsules: 120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg, 360mg

Zemtard XL[®] capsules: 120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg

Twice-daily preparations

Preparations within this box may be used interchangeably at the same dose

Adizem-SR[®] capsules: 90mg, 120mg, 180mg

Angitil SR[®] capsules: 90mg, 120mg, 180mg

Dilcardia[®] capsules: 60mg, 90mg, 120mg

Tildiem Retard[®] tablets: 90mg, 120mg

Thrice-daily preparations

Preparations within this box may be used interchangeably

Ditiazem MR (generic) tablets: 60mg

Retalzem[®] tablets: 60mg

Tildiem[®] tablets: 60mg