

NHS South Yorkshire ICB, Sheffield Place MOT QIPP cost effective prescribing 2024/25

Notes for memantine switch

Please note that this document has not been updated for the 2026-27 incentive scheme. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for medicines optimisation switches/reviews, along with other supporting materials, were originally developed for use by Medicines Optimisation Team staff within NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Other organisations or groups choosing to use this resource does so at their own risk and NHS SY ICB accepts no liability for its use or application.

Memantine hydrochloride is most commonly prescribed for moderate to severe dementia in alzheimer's disease. Wherever appropriate, prescribers should consider advising patients/carers to halve or crush the tablet (off label use) for patients with dysphagia or requirement for [covert drug administration](#) . Memantine can be taken with or without food.

Suggestive actions:

Identify prescribing of soluble/orodispersible /liquid formulations and, wherever suitable, consider switching these formulations to the option of crushing/halving normal tablets.

If crushing tablet is unsuitable, prescriber may consider prescribing liquid formulation which is more cost effective than soluble or orodispersible tablets. It is widely available in pump actuated oral solution (several manufacturers) and syringe drawn oral solution (only by Rosemont pharmaceuticals Ltd). Patients/carers must pay attention to correct daily dose administration to reduce risks of medication administration errors, as liquid formulation dispensed by the pharmacy may vary depending actual stock availability.

Generic formulations remain cost- effective over branded /specials formulations.

Amend the directions accordingly on SystmONE / EMIS to reflect the new way of taking medicine.

Communicate clearly with patient and/or carers.

References and more info:

BNF, SPC, Sheffield SCP

MHRA ([Memantine pump device \(Ebixa\): risk of medication errors - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#))