

## Patient information Lithium carbonate (PRIADEL) switch – Sept 2020

Priadel 200mg and 400mg MR tablets are being discontinued (Priadel liquid is not affected). The company that makes the medication has decided to stop in April 2021 but there other companies that make the same medication that you can switch to. This discontinuation is not because of any new safety concerns with Priadel or Lithium.

Unavailable Brand	Available Brand
Priadel 200mg MR tablets Priadel 400mg MR tablets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Essential Pharma Lithium Carbonate 250mg</b> film coated tabs <i>(Previously Camcolit)</i></li> <li>2. <b>Camcolit C/R 400mg</b> controlled release tabs <i>(produced by essential pharma)</i></li> <li>3. <b>Liskonum M/R 450mg</b> modified release <i>(tabs can be halved to achieve 225mg)</i></li> </ol>

- Once switched from Priadel to an available brand, continue with that new available brand and do not take Priadel anymore.
- The strengths of the new brands are different but your healthcare professional will explain what your new dose will be. It will be very similar or identical to your current dose, but minor adjustments may need to be made depending on how you feel, your lithium blood results and any side effects you may experience.

### Switching from Priadel

- The prescriber will request a blood lithium level and once the results come back, they will switch you directly to one of the available brand(s) listed above. It is important you do not have a break in treatment or double up by taking both Priadel and any new brand(s). The dose you are prescribed may not be identical to your Priadel dose but should be very close to it.
- After 5-7 days of taking the new brand(s), a repeat blood lithium level will be required (blood levels should be taken 12 hours after your dose) and a dose adjustment may be necessary. This may be repeated at intervals until you are on a stable dose of the new brand of lithium.
- The prescriber will monitor your mental state and ask you about any side effects, but you also should share any concerns you have with your GP or mental health service.

### Important points

- You will need extra monitoring during the switch.
- Try not to make any lifestyle or other medication changes during the switch and try to maintain stable levels of fluid intake and exercise.
- Return any unused Priadel to the community pharmacy once the switch is complete.
- Make sure your lithium booklet is updated with the brand and dose plus any blood levels.
- Report any signs and symptoms of side effects/toxicity you may experience (see below).
- **If you have any concerns or feel unwell, contact a healthcare professional for advice.**

Signs of toxicity include; nausea, diarrhoea, blurred vision, going to the toilet more, light-headedness, fine resting tremor, muscular weakness, drowsiness and increasing confusion.

Further information about the switch can be found [here](#) and further information about lithium [here](#)

**Please contact**..... If you have any problems/questions