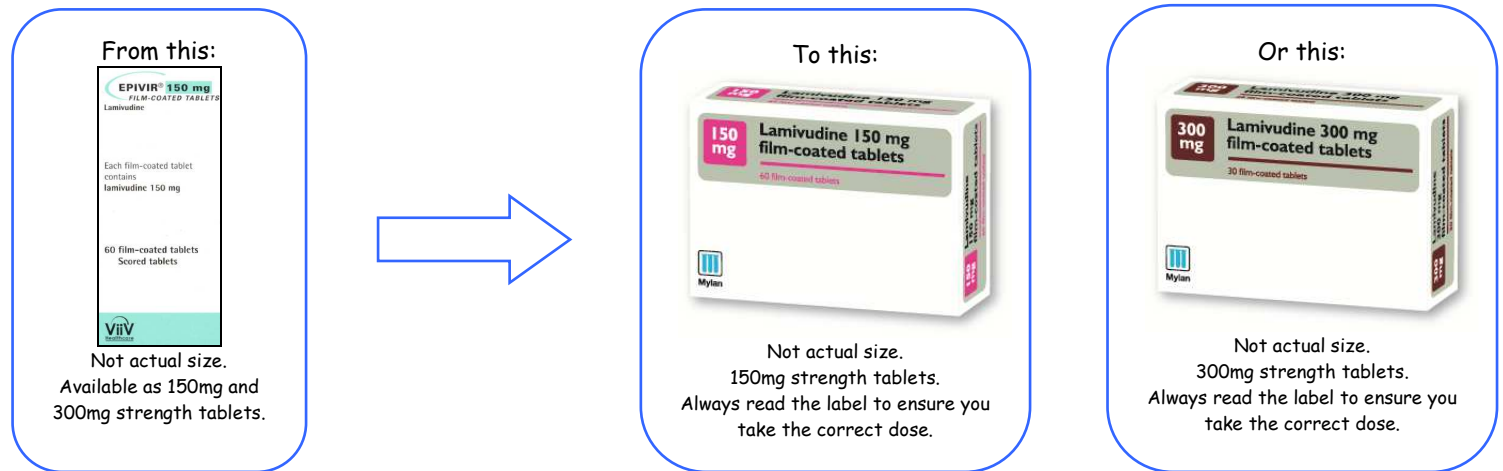


IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Lamivudine (3TC) is changing. The patent (licence) for the branded version called Eпивир® has ended which allows other companies to manufacture lamivudine. When these companies make lamivudine, their products are called generics. In the UK there are two generic versions of lamivudine now available which are made by companies called Mylan and Teva. This leaflet refers specifically to the generic lamivudine tablets made by Mylan.



Why am I being asked to switch to the generic version of lamivudine tablets?

Generic versions of medicines typically cost the NHS significantly less than the branded version. By switching from Eпивир to the generic lamivudine you are helping your clinic and the NHS save money whilst maintaining the same care.

What are the main changes that I will notice?

The generic lamivudine are an off-white oval shaped tablet, curved on both sides. On one side they are marked "M105" and on the other with a scoreline. The tablets are likely to come in a blister pack (although this may depend on your clinic).

Will the generic lamivudine tablets work in the same way as the Eпивир brand?

Both versions contain the same active drug lamivudine. As long as you continue to take the same dose of lamivudine as prescribed by your doctor then generic lamivudine will work in the same way.

Will there be any side effects when I switch?

You shouldn't expect any new side effects when you start taking the new tablets, as they contain the same drug. Occasionally some people may experience some minor side effects when they take a new formulation of a drug, however these should settle. Speak to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you experience any new side effects.

How do I switch to the generic lamivudine tablets?

Once you have used up your current supply of Eпивир tablets you should switch to generic lamivudine tablets at your next scheduled dose. You should not take the Eпивир and generic lamivudine versions together as this might lead to an accidental double dose. Just like Eпивир, the generic lamivudine tablets are available as both 150mg and 300mg strengths so it is always important to read the label to make sure you continue to take the correct dosage. Some patients previously prescribed 150mg tablets by their clinic may change to the higher strength tablets (to reduce pill numbers) however your clinic will inform you if your prescription will change.

I'm on home delivery, how does this affect me?

It is likely that either on your next delivery, or the one after you will receive the generic lamivudine tablets. The delivery company will do their best to ensure you get just one version to any avoid confusion.

How do I take the generic lamivudine?

The generic lamivudine tablets should be taken in the same way as Eпивир. They can be taken with or without food.

Remember that 'Mylan' refers to the company which makes one of the generic versions of lamivudine tablets, rather than the drug itself. When a healthcare professional asks you about your medicines you should tell that you take 'lamivudine'.

If you have any questions about Eпивир, the Mylan version of lamivudine or any of your medicines please contact your doctor, nurse or pharmacist on the number below:

Name:

Tel: