

Patient information about changes to medicines or treatments on the NHS: [Changes to Oxycodone/Naloxone combination products](#)

The NHS is asking prescribers to stop or greatly reduce the prescribing of some medicines. This is because the medicines are:

- Not as safe as other medicines OR
- Not as good (effective) as other medicines OR
- More expensive than other medicines that do the same thing.

This includes Oxycodone/Naloxone combination products.

This document will explain why the changes are happening and where you can get more information and support.

[What do Oxycodone and Naloxone combination products do?](#)

Oxycodone is an opioid pain medication used to treat severe pain.

Opioid medicines can cause constipation as a side effect, and naloxone is added to try to stop constipation from happening.

[Why does the NHS want to reduce prescribing of Oxycodone/Naloxone combination products?](#)

NHS guidance recommends that Oxycodone/Naloxone combination products should not be prescribed routinely because there is lack of evidence to show that the combination products provide any additional benefit to separate tablets. Oxycodone/Naloxone combination products are also significantly more expensive, hence not good value for money.

[What options are available instead of Oxycodone and Naloxone combination products?](#)

You can talk to your doctor about the options available so that you can come to a joint decision about what will be best to relieve your pain.

You may be prescribed a painkiller and a laxative, if needed, as separate tablets instead of a combination product. You may not need the laxative as not everyone gets constipation as a side effect

Where can I find more information and support?

- You can speak to your local pharmacist, GP, or the person who prescribed the medication to you.
- National and local charities can offer advice and support, for example:
 - Pain Concern: 0300 123 0789 <http://painconcern.org.uk/>
 - Pain UK: <https://painuk.org>
- -The Patients Association can also offer support and advice: www.patients-association.org.uk/ or freephone 0800 345 7115
- Healthwatch is an online resource where you can feedback on your healthcare experiences: www.healthwatch.co.uk

Find out more about the medicines that are being stopped or reduced:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-policy-guidance/>