Department of Health & Social Care

NHS England

Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2026/055

Diltiazem (Viazem XL®)120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg and 360mg prolonged-release capsules

Tier 2 – medium impact*
Date of issue: 23/11/2026
Link: Medicines Supply Tool

Summary

- Diltiazem (Viazem XL®) 180mg, 300mg and 360mg prolonged-release capsules were discontinued w/c 5 October 2026
- Diltiazem (Viazem XL®) 120mg prolonged-release capsules will be discontinued from w/c 7 December 2026
- Diltiazem (Viazem XL®) 240mg prolonged-release capsules will be discontinued from w/c 1 November 2027
- Other brands of once-daily prolonged-release diltiazem capsules remain available and can support a full uplift in demand. (see Supporting information)

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- consider prescribing an alternative brand of once daily prolonged-release diltiazem capsules (see Supporting information); and
- counsel patients with angina, to report worsening of symptoms, side effects, and/or the need to use more glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) after switching to an alternative diltiazem preparation; or
- consider rechecking blood pressure (BP) in patients with hypertension within a month of switching to an alternative brand of diltiazem if there are concerns about BP control.

Where patients are prescribed Viazem XL® 360mg capsules, as alternative once daily prolonged-release diltiazem do not exist as a 360mg strength, clinicians should prescribe 2 x 180mg capsules and counsel patients on the change in number of capsules to be taken.

Supporting information

Clinical Information

Viazem XL® capsules are indicated for the management of stable angina pectoris and the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension. The usual starting dose is 180 mg once daily, which may be increased after 2-4 weeks based on patient's response. The maximum daily dose is 360 mg.

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/

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’.

Alternative diltiazem prolonged-release capsules

Other **once daily** brands of diltiazem prolonged release capsules licensed for use in angina and hypertension include:

Brand	Ability to uplift
Angitil XL® (240mg, 300mg)	Can fully support immediately
Zemtard XL® (120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg)	
Adizem XL® (120mg, 180mg, 200mg, 240mg, 300mg)	Can fully support from January 2027
Tildiem LA® (200mg, 300mg)	Cannot support increased demand

Links to further information

- BNF diltiazem summary
- SmPC Angitil SR/XL capsules
- SmPC Adizem XL capsules
- SmPC Tildiem LA capsules
- SmPC Viazem XL capsules
- SmPC Zemtard XL capsules

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.