

Ivabradine for chronic heart failure

NICE 'technology appraisal guidance' advises on when and how drugs and other treatments should be used in the NHS.

This document is about when **ivabradine** should be used to treat people with chronic heart failure in the NHS in England and Wales. It explains guidance (advice) from NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence). It is written for people with chronic heart failure but it may also be useful for their families or carers or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

It does not describe chronic heart failure or the treatments in detail – a member of your healthcare team should discuss these with you. You can get more information from the organisations listed on page 4.

This may not be the only possible treatment for chronic heart failure. Your healthcare team should talk to you about whether it is suitable for you and about other treatment options available.

What has NICE said?

NICE recommends ivabradine as a possible treatment for some people with chronic heart failure (see below).

Who can have ivabradine?

You should be able to have ivabradine if all of the following apply:

- You have symptoms of heart failure and your heart isn't contracting properly, but your condition is stable.
- You have a regular heartbeat of 75 beats per minute or more.
- You are given ivabradine alongside standard drugs for heart failure, or instead of beta-blockers if you cannot take them.
- Your left ventricular ejection fraction or LVEF for short (the amount of blood pumped out by the left side of your heart) is below 35%.

If you are eligible for ivabradine as above, before starting ivabradine you should first have 4 weeks of treatment with standard drugs for heart failure to see if the right combination and dose of standard drugs alone can treat your symptoms.

Treatment with ivabradine should be started by a specialist. But after that either a GP with a special interest in heart failure or a heart failure specialist nurse can adjust your dose and monitor your condition.

Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work, and also at how well they work in relation to how much they cost the NHS.

NICE recommended ivabradine because when it is combined with

standard treatment, the benefit to patients justifies the extra cost.

Chronic heart failure

Heart failure means your heart cannot efficiently pump blood around the body. Usually this is because the heart muscle has been damaged. The term 'chronic heart failure' is used to describe heart failure as a long-term condition.

Standard drugs for heart failure include beta-blockers, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and aldosterone antagonists.

Ivabradine

Ivabradine (also known as Procoralan) is a drug that slows down the heart rate and helps the heart become more efficient at pumping blood around the body.

What does this mean for me?

When NICE recommends a treatment, the NHS must make sure it is available to those people it could help, normally within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

So, if you have chronic heart failure, and you and your doctor think that ivabradine is the right treatment for you (see 'What has NICE said?' on page 2), you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS. Please see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance if you think you are eligible for the treatment but it is not available.

If you are not eligible for treatment as described in 'What has NICE said' on page 2, you should be able to continue taking ivabradine until you and your doctor decide it is the right time to stop.

More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with heart failure. NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

- Action Heart, 01384 292233
www.actionheart.com
- British Cardiac Patients Association, 01223 845845
www.BCPA.co.uk
- British Heart Foundation, 0300 330 3311
www.heartuk.org.uk
- South Asian Health Foundation, 020 331 30677
www.sahf.org.uk

NHS choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more. If you live in Wales you should speak to NHS Direct Wales for information on who to contact.

About NICE

NICE produces guidance (advice) for the NHS about preventing, diagnosing and treating medical conditions. The guidance is written by independent experts, including healthcare professionals and people representing patients and carers. They consider the evidence on the disease and treatments, the views of patients and carers and the experiences of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, and consider the costs involved. Staff working in the NHS are expected to follow this guidance.

To find out more about NICE, its work and how it reaches decisions, see www.nice.org.uk/aboutguidance

This document and other versions of the guidance aimed at healthcare professionals are available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA267

The NICE website has a screen reader service called Browsealoud, which allows you to listen to our guidance. Click on [Accessibility](#) at the bottom of the NICE homepage to use this service.

We encourage NHS and voluntary organisations to use text from this document in their own information about chronic heart failure.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Level 1A, City Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BT; www.nice.org.uk

ISBN 978-1-84936-975-6

NOV 12

© National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2012. All rights reserved. This material may be freely reproduced for educational and not-for-profit purposes. No reproduction by or for commercial organisations, or for commercial purposes, is allowed without the express written permission of NICE.