



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE  
*in* HIV/AIDS

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June 10, 2019

Dear Antiretroviral Prescriber:

**RE: Nevirapine 400 mg XR (extended release) tablet (Viramune® XR) currently unavailable. Requesting prescription authorization to substitute with Nevirapine 200 mg IR (immediate release) tablets**

Your client (prescription enclosed) has been identified through the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program as receiving Nevirapine XR as part of their current antiretroviral regimen. This notice is to inform you that Nevirapine XR tablet is currently unavailable from the manufacturer (estimated date of availability unknown) and product substitution will be required at the time of next refill.

**The BC-CfE recommends the following product substitution:**

**Current dose:** Nevirapine 400 mg XR tablet – Take one tablet once daily

**Substitute with:** Nevirapine 200 mg IR (immediate release) tablets *at the equivalent total daily dose, either*

- ONE tablet TWICE daily (Standard dose), *or*
- TWO tablets ONCE daily (Please note this dosing used historically is off-label)

Nevirapine IR tablets can be taken with or without food

**If you are in agreement with the product substitution, please authorize the enclosed prescription specifying the nevirapine IR dosing regimen of your choice. Return the form by fax (preferred) or by mail to the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program prior to the expected antiretroviral refill date.**

Please discuss the switch from nevirapine XR to IR formulation with your patient. Your patient will also receive instructions from the program pharmacy at the time of switch. Please note that initiating or re-starting nevirapine after more than 7 days of therapy interruption requires dose escalation to reduce the risk of rash.

**If instead you wish to request an alternative regimen for your client, please complete and submit an HIV Drug Treatment Program Prescription Request Form for review and approval (Form found at <http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/drug-treatment-program/how-obtain-hiv-medication>).**



HEALTH CARE

How you want to be treated.

For questions about the client's medication history please contact the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program at 604-806-8515. For advice about medication please call St. Paul's Hospital Ambulatory Pharmacy at 1-888-511-6222.

Sincerely,



Val Montessori, MD, FRCPC

Co-Chair, Committee for Drug Evaluation and Therapy  
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS



Julio S.G. Montaner, OC, OBC, MD, DSc (Hon), FRCPC, FCCP, FACP, FRSC  
Executive Director and Physician-in-Chief  
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