

Pharmacist Checklist - Guidance for dispensing alitretinoin capsules

Alitretinoin capsules belong to the retinoid class of drugs that cause severe birth defects. Foetal exposure to alitretinoin capsules, even for short periods of time, presents a high risk of congenital malformations and miscarriage.

Alitretinoin Capsules are therefore strictly contraindicated during pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential, unless all conditions in the alitretinoin capsules Pregnancy Prevention Programme are fulfilled.

A negative pregnancy test, issuing a prescription and dispensing alitretinoin capsules should ideally occur on the same day.

If you are aware that a pregnancy has occurred in a woman treated with alitretinoin capsules, treatment should be stopped immediately and the woman should be promptly referred to the prescribing doctor.

If you are aware that a female patient has become pregnant within one month after stopping alitretinoin capsules she should be referred to her prescribing doctor.

As a pharmacist, you should only dispense alitretinoin capsules after checking the following information:

For women of child-bearing potential:

In order to support regular follow up, including pregnancy testing and monitoring, the prescription for alitretinoin capsules should ideally be limited to a 30-day supply.	
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All patients should be instructed:

Never to give the alitretinoin capsules to another person.	
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To return any unused capsules to their pharmacist at the end of treatment.	
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Not to donate blood during alitretinoin therapy and for one month after discontinuation due to the potential risk to the foetus of a pregnant transfusion recipient.	
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Pregnancies occurring during treatment and within 1 month following discontinuation of treatment should be reported to the MHRA and the company listed in the patient information leaflet who will follow up with you to record the pregnancy outcome.

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions. Adverse events should be reported to the MHRA and the company listed in the patient information leaflet. Reporting forms and information can be found at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. Alternatively, you can call on 0800 731 6789.