

Changing from Vagifem® to generic Estradiol 10micrograms Vaginal Tablet

– Patient information

What is the estradiol vaginal tablet for?

The estradiol vaginal tablet is a type of hormone replacement therapy. It is used to treat vaginal symptoms associated with menopause, such as vaginal dryness and irritation.

What is changing?

If you have been using Vagifem®, your prescription may now change to Estradiol 10micrograms vaginal tablet.

Why switch to a generic Estradiol 10micrograms Vaginal Tablet?

Estradiol 10micrograms vaginal tablet contains the same active ingredient as Vagifem® and works in the same way. It is just as effective and costs less, helping the NHS make better use of public funds. This change will enable the NHS to provide more treatments for more people, supporting sustainable care. Additionally, the generic version comes with a reusable applicator rather than a single-use plastic applicator in Vagifem®, which reduces plastic waste and supports a greener NHS.

What is the difference?

Both Vagifem® and Estradiol 10microgram vaginal tablet contain the same active ingredient, estradiol, and work in the same way. The main difference is that Vagifem® is packaged with single-use applicators for each pessary, while the generic version provides a reusable applicator. You may also notice that the packaging looks different as generic versions are made by different manufacturers and can vary in appearance. However, despite these differences, the effectiveness of the medicine remains the same.

Cleaning the reusable applicator

1. Gently remove the plunger from the applicator.
2. Wash both parts (tube and plunger) with mild soap and warm water.
3. Rinse both the inside and outside of each part with warm water for 5 seconds.
4. Shake off any excess water.
5. Leave the tube and plunger to air dry completely on a clean surface.
6. Once dried, introduce the plunger again into the applicator tube, ready for the next use

You can continue using the same applicator until you have completed the treatment pack. If it becomes damaged, an extra applicator is provided in the pack.

Do I need to do anything different?

No. just use your Estradiol 10microgram vaginal tablet the same way you used your Vagifem®. If you have difficulties with the reusable applicator, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist. Use up your current supply of Vagifem® before using the new brand.

What if I have a problem with estradiol 10micrograms vaginal tablets?

If you notice any side effects or feel unwell after using the medicine, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist. If you have any known allergies or intolerances, always let your doctor or pharmacist know before starting a new medicine.

Key reminders

- Always take medicines as prescribed by your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, ask your pharmacist or doctor.
- If you want to leave feedback about this change, please contact the ICB Patient Experience Team by email at nnicb-nn.patientexperience@nhs.net.