



Switching patients from sevelamer **hydrochloride** (Renagel®) tablets to the generic sevelamer **carbonate**

Sevelamer is used as a phosphate binder in the management of hyperphosphataemia in chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients with mineral and bone disorders^{1,2,3}.

Sevelamer is available as an 800mg tablet in two different salts: sevelamer **hydrochloride** (brand name Renagel®) and sevelamer **carbonate** (brand name Renvela®)^{1,2}.

The generic version of Renvela® is available. It is marketed under the generic name sevelamer **carbonate** and has the following **three advantages** over sevelamer **hydrochloride**:

1. Sevelamer **carbonate** is more cost-effective
2. Sevelamer **carbonate** has a broader indication than sevelamer **hydrochloride**. Sevelamer **carbonate** is licensed for controlling hyperphosphataemia in adult patients with CKD who are both on **OR** not on dialysis (haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis) whereas sevelamer **hydrochloride** is **ONLY** licensed for those on dialysis^{1,2}.
3. Sevelamer **carbonate** has a better safety profile as it does not increase the risk of metabolic acidosis⁴; **sevelamer carbonate** is a newer buffered formulation compared to sevelamer hydrochloride and has been found not to decrease serum bicarbonate⁵.

Sevelamer **carbonate** is the formulary choice as per Trust guidelines. Sevelamer **hydrochloride** (brand name Renagel®) is non-formulary. Sevelamer **carbonate** should be prescribed by its generic name (Do not use brand name Renvela®).

ALL patients prescribed sevelamer **hydrochloride** (Renagel®) can be switched to sevelamer **carbonate**. The doses are equivalent – no dose adjustment is required and there are **no** additional monitoring requirements following the switch⁵.

See the Guideline for the Management of Mineral and Bone Disorders in Dialysis Patients policy <http://lthtr-documents/current/P645.pdf> for more details.

References

- 1) SPC for Renagel 800 mg film-coated tablets. Last updated on 15OCT2019. Accessed via <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/207/smpc#gref>
- 2) SPC for Renvela 800 mg film-coated tablets. Last updated 09 April 2021. <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/472/smpc#gref>
- 3) NICE. Hyperphosphataemia in chronic kidney disease. Management of hyperphosphataemia in patients with stage 4 or 5 chronic kidney disease. Clinical Guideline 157. March 2013.
- 4) Pai, A.B. and Shepler, B.M. (2009), Comparison of Sevelamer Hydrochloride and Sevelamer Carbonate: Risk of Metabolic Acidosis and Clinical Implications. *Pharmacotherapy: The Journal of Human Pharmacology and Drug Therapy*, 29: 554-561. <https://doi.org/10.1592/phco.29.5.554>
- 5) Sevelamer as hydrochloride or carbonate salt (salt to be specified) (Renvela® and Renagel®). Dudley Clinical Commissioning group. Approved JUN2016. Accessed via [file://nas02.xlthtr.nhs.uk/userdata\\$/trevx009/Downloads/sevelamer-esca-updated-august-2016-1470923262.pdf](file://nas02.xlthtr.nhs.uk/userdata$/trevx009/Downloads/sevelamer-esca-updated-august-2016-1470923262.pdf).