

**Position Statement;** Prescribing of Oxycodone/naloxone prolonged release (Targinact®) tablets is not supported for long term treatment of severe pain

**Castle Point and Rochford and Southend Clinical Commissioning Groups do not support the prescribing of Oxycodone/naloxone prolonged release (Targinact®) tablets in the long term treatment of severe pain**

Targinact® is a combination preparation containing oxycodone and the opioid antagonist naloxone. Naloxone is added to counteract opioid-induced constipation by blocking the action of oxycodone at opioid receptors locally in the gut. Constipation is one of the most common adverse effects from opioids; unlike some other adverse effects, tolerance does not develop on long-term use.

Place in therapy is unclear:

- Provides equivalent analgesia to that of oxycodone controlled-release (CR) tablets
- The naloxone component reduces, but does not eliminate, opioid-induced constipation
- Long-term effect on constipation is uncertain
- No studies comparing Targinact with opioid analgesics with regular laxatives, or with opioid analgesics except oxycodone

**Recommendations**

- Review all patients on Targinact® tablets for suitability for switching to morphine sulphate (first line choice strong opioid)
- Switch all suitable patients to an appropriate formulation of morphine sulphate with additional concomitant regular laxative therapy, for example a combination of stool-softening and stimulant laxatives (e.g. docusate plus senna or bisacodyl or co-danthramer in the terminally ill) or lactulose plus bisacodyl or senna in those not terminally ill. Please note it may not be appropriate to switch terminally ill patients.
- As with all switches, the dose should be tailored to the individual patient. Prescribers should be aware of the difference in potency of oxycodone compared to morphine.
- Patients unsuitable for a switch to morphine sulphate should be switched to an equivalent dose of oxycodone MR, prescribed as Longtec®, with additional concomitant regular laxative therapy.
- To avoid confusion between the modified release products and standard release products, all modified release opioids should be prescribed by brand.
- Prescribers should be aware of the abuse potential of all opioids and careful consideration should be given when prescribing opioids for non-cancer pain to patients with a history of substance misuse or where abuse is a concern.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs are reminded that they are required to follow the Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification). For any medicines management information please refer to the Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCG websites

Approved for use in Castle Point and Rochford and Southend CCGs	Drugs and Therapeutics Committee 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Title	<b>Oxycodone/naloxone</b>
References	PrescQIPP DROP-List. Bulletin 56 <a href="https://www.prescqipp.info/-oxycodone/naloxone-prolonged-release-tablets/send/105-oxycodone-naloxone-prolonged-release-targinact-tablets/1307-bulletin-56-oxycodone-naloxone-prolonged-release">https://www.prescqipp.info/-oxycodone/naloxone-prolonged-release-tablets/send/105-oxycodone-naloxone-prolonged-release-targinact-tablets/1307-bulletin-56-oxycodone-naloxone-prolonged-release</a>

Reviewed and adapted for use from Mid Essex CCG Prescribing Policy Statements