

National Haemoglobinopathy Panel

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<https://www.nationalhaempanel-nhs.net>

Women's and Children's Academic Health - Kings College London

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10 October 2024

Patient Communication: Voxelotor (Oxbryta®) Withdrawal

Dear Patients,

Re: Recall of Voxelotor (Oxbryta®) Medication for Sickle Cell Disease by Pfizer

The National Haemoglobinopathy Panel (NHP) is a group of doctors and healthcare professionals that oversee and advise NHS England on new developments in red cell disorders including for sickle cell disease. One of the roles is to oversee and advise on new treatments.

We are writing to you to inform you that Voxelotor (Oxbryta) has been recalled by Pfizer, the company who make the drug, effective from 25th September 2024. This recall has been issued in coordination with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which has confirmed that all batches of Oxbryta 500 mg tablets are affected. Healthcare providers have been instructed to stop prescribing the medication. Patients have been contacted and advised to stop their treatment and return any remaining packs.

Why is this happening?

New clinical information indicates that the risk of taking Voxelotor outweighs the benefits for sickle cell patients. Pfizer informed us that they noticed an increase in the number of acute painful crises (vaso-occlusive crises) and deaths in patients taking Voxelotor. There is no choice but to stop using this medication in all patients.

What does this mean for patients on Voxelotor?

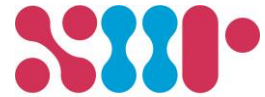
We understand that this is deeply disappointing for patients, particularly those currently on **Voxelotor** or planning to start. However, patient safety must come first. All patients currently taking Voxelotor have been contacted to discuss the new advice and to ask them to stop taking this medication. If you have any remaining packs of **Voxelotor**, you can return them to your clinical team at your next clinic visit or day unit appointment.

What should patients on Voxelotor do now?

If you are taking Voxelotor, please stop immediately and contact your medial team to discuss alternative treatment options.

For further information, you can also visit the following trusted sources:

- Sickle Cell Society Statement: <https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/statement-on-pfizers-withdrawal-of-new-sickle-cell-treatment-voxelotor-oxbryta/>
- NHS England Statement: <https://www.gov.uk/drug-device-alerts/class-2-medicines-recall-pfizer-limited-oxbryta-500mg-tablets-voxelotor-el-24-a-slash-44>



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What should you do if you experience side effects?

If you experience adverse reactions or have concerns about your health after stopping Voxelotor, contact your medical or nursing team.

What should you do if you were planning to start Voxelotor?

Unfortunately, this announcement means that you will not be able to start Voxelotor.