

To: All Community Pharmacies
All GP Practices

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17th December 2020

Dear Colleague

DISCONTINUATION OF BILXONA® (GLICLAZIDE MR)

Accord-UK Ltd has announced that all strengths of their branded modified release gliclazide tablets, Bilxona® have been discontinued. This is a commercial decision made by the pharmaceutical company.

Since September 2017, HSCB has recommended that where a modified release preparation of gliclazide is required for patients e.g. for those with demonstrable compliance problems, this should be prescribed as Bilxona®.

During this time, the use of this cost effective choice has generated over **£400k** of efficiencies for Health & Social Care and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your collective efforts to achieve these efficiencies.

The discontinuation of this brand will require prescriptions for Bilxona® to be changed to **gliclazide MR**.

Stocks of Bilxona® may start to run short from some wholesalers within weeks so action needs to be taken as soon as possible to identify patients currently being prescribed Bilxona® in order for their prescriptions to be changed. A template letter for patients to support the prescribing changes is included as Appendix 1, should you wish to use this.

If you require further information, please contact your Pharmacy Adviser.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management

CC. Regional Diabetes Network

Enc. Appendix 1- Template letter to patients

Contact Details for Local Integrated Care Offices:				
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