

# DOAC Switch Scheme

## Switching from Edoxaban

This page is for patients currently taking Edoxaban.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. A member of our team will be contacting you soon to discuss changing your medication. Reading this beforehand will help you prepare for that call.

## Why are we asking you to consider a change?

As you may know, NHS resources are under increasing pressure. One of the ways we can protect patient care is by making sure we use medicines that provide the best value for the NHS.

You are taking Edoxaban, which reduces the risk of stroke in people with atrial fibrillation. Until recently, Edoxaban was the most cost-effective choice. However, the cost of Apixaban—a very similar medicine—has dropped significantly.

This change is because the **branded version of Apixaban has recently lost its licence**, which allows other companies to produce it. The medication itself has not changed—it's exactly the same treatment, just available at a much lower cost.

### Monthly cost to the NHS

- Edoxaban: £49.00
- Apixaban: £1.69

Across Powys, switching could save the NHS around £750,000 each year—money that can be reinvested into essential care, treatments, and services in **your community**.

## How does the switch work?

The change is straightforward:

- Finish your remaining Edoxaban tablets as usual.
- Start your new medication the very next day.

### Preferred option – Apixaban

- Taken twice daily, about 12 hours apart.
- Can be taken with or without food.
- Has a slightly lower risk of major bleeding compared with other options.
- If you usually crush your tablets, you can do the same with Apixaban.

## Alternative option – Rivaroxaban

- Taken once daily but must be taken with a full meal.
- Missing food with the dose can reduce its effectiveness.
- Has a slightly higher risk of bleeding compared with Apixaban.

## What do I need to do?

At the bottom of this page there is a simple form to let us know if you are happy to switch.

Once you submit the form, one of our pharmacists will contact you by phone to confirm the details and answer any questions.

## Still have questions?

- During your telephone consultation, the pharmacist can talk through any concerns.
- If you need further advice afterwards, you can contact us anytime via the practice.

 You can also read the full patient information leaflets here:

- [Apixaban patient leaflet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Rivaroxaban patient leaflet \(PDF\)](#)

## What if I don't want to switch?

We hope this leaflet has reassured you that the change is safe, straightforward, and will make a real difference to your NHS. However, if you do not wish to switch, you can let us know by using the form below.

**IF WE COULD HAVE A FORM ATTACHED TO THE WEBPAGE FOR PATIENTS TO SUBMIT,  
PLEASE SEE EXAMPLE BELOW**

## Use this form to let us know your decision:

DOAC Switch

First Name \*

Surname \*

Date of Birth \*

Email Address

Preferred contact number \*

Select an option below:

☐

I am happy to switch to Apixaban which is taken twice a day

☐

I would like to switch to Rivaroxaban which is taken once a day

☐

I do not want to change my medication at this time

What is the best time/day to call?