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Medicine Supply Notification: Ibandronic acid 150mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact

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[Medicines Supply Tool – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

Summary

- Ibandronic acid 150mg tablets, the only licensed **once monthly** bisphosphonate, are in limited supply until March 2026.
- Alendronic acid 70mg tablets and risedronate sodium 35mg tablets (**once weekly** bisphosphonate presentations) remain available and can support increased demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians should not initiate new patients on ibandronic acid 150mg tablets until the supply issue has resolved.

Where patients have insufficient supply to last until the resupply date, clinicians should review patients and consider:

- the duration they have been on treatment and appropriateness of pausing treatment until either ibandronic acid 150mg tablets are available or for a longer period off treatment to restore the benefit/risk balance (see supporting information); or
- switching to a once weekly bisphosphonate if ongoing treatment is required, ensuring patients can adhere to a once weekly regimen, are counselled on a change in dose regimen, and to seek advice if they experience side effects.

For patients requiring continued treatment and considered unsuitable for a once weekly oral bisphosphonate, advice should be sought from specialists on alternative management options, which may include referral for intravenous bisphosphonate treatment.

Supporting information

Clinical information

Ibandronic acid 150mg tablets are a second line option for patients unable to manage a once daily or once weekly bisphosphonate regimen.

National Osteoporosis Guideline Group (NOGG) guidance notes bisphosphonates are retained long term in bone allowing the beneficial effects to persist for some time after cessation of treatment, which has raised the possibility some patients may benefit from a period off treatment to restore the benefit/risk balance. This involves treatment being stopped after some years and the need for reinstitution of therapy is subsequently reassessed. Therefore, treatment review in patients taking bisphosphonates is critical and each patient must be assessed individually to assess relative risks and benefits; there is no standard policy for all patients.

In the absence of definitive advice/guidance, when switching from a monthly to a weekly oral bisphosphonate, the weekly product is taken on the scheduled date for the monthly treatment and continued on a weekly basis.

Table 1: Bisphosphonate products

Product	Licensed indications	Dosing	Comment
Ibandronic acid 150mg tablets	Treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women at increased risk of fracture	150 mg once a month Take after overnight fast (≥6 hours) and 1 hour before first food or drink (other than water) of day or any other oral medicines or supplements (including calcium)	Not recommended for creatinine clearance <30 ml/min. Missed dose advice: take morning after tablet is remembered, unless time to next scheduled dose is within 7 days then return to original scheduled date. If next dose within 7 days, wait until then and continue as originally scheduled.
Alendronate 70mg tablets	Treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis	70 mg once a week Take ≥30 minutes before first food, beverage, or medicinal product of the day with plain water only	In practice, used off label for treatment of osteoporosis in men. Not recommended for creatinine clearance <35 ml/min. Missed dose advice: take one tablet on morning after tablet is remembered and return to taking one tablet once a week, as originally scheduled on chosen day.
Risedronate sodium 35mg tablets	Treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis Treatment of osteoporosis in men at high risk of fractures	35 mg once a week Take before breakfast, ≥30 minutes before first food, other medicinal product or drink (other than plain water) of the day	Contraindicated in patients with creatinine clearance <30ml/min. Missed dose advice: take one tablet on morning after tablet is remembered and return to taking one tablet once a week, as originally scheduled on chosen day.

Links to further information

- SmPC Ibandronic acid 150mg tablets [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
- SmPC Alendronic acid 70mg tablets [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
- SmPC Risedronate sodium 35mg tablets [Search Results - \(emc\)](#)
- BNF Osteoporosis [Osteoporosis | Treatment summaries | BNF | NICE](#)
- NICE guidance: Bisphosphonates for treating osteoporosis [2 The technologies | Bisphosphonates for treating osteoporosis | Guidance | NICE](#)
- NOGG Clinical guideline for the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis [NOGG-Guideline-2024.pdf](#)

NOGG: Duration and monitoring of bisphosphonate treatment [Section 7: Strategies for management of osteoporosis and fracture risk | NOGG](#)