


Patient Safety ALERT : Drug Substitution


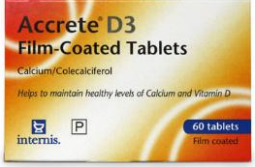

Calcium and Vitamin D products

Northern Acute and Northern Community Services

Following the July 2016 meeting of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee it has been agreed to substitute prescriptions for equivalent Formulary choice calcium and vitamin D products with Adcal D3[®] for areas supplied by the North Devon District Hospital pharmacy department:

Product:	Calcium carbonate content	Colecalciferol content:	Recommended daily adult dose:
Adcal D3 chewable tablets (stocked brand) 	1500mg <i>(equivalent to 600mg of elemental calcium)</i>	400 units <i>(equivalent to 10micrograms vitamin D₃)</i>	2 chewable tablets per day, preferably one tablet each morning and evening

Prescriptions for any of the other products listed below will be annotated 'Adcal D3' by the pharmacy department, which will be supplied, and will include discharge prescriptions (the discharge summary will note the substitution which is not a permanent switch)

Product:	Calcium carbonate content	Colecalciferol content:	Recommended daily adult dose:
Calcichew D3 Forte chewable tablets 	1250mg <i>(equivalent to 500mg of elemental calcium)</i>	400 units <i>(equivalent to 10micrograms vitamin D₃)</i>	2 chewable tablets per day, preferably one tablet morning and evening
Accrete D3 film-coated tablets 	1500 mg <i>(equivalent to 600mg calcium)</i>	400 units <i>(equivalent to 10micrograms vitamin D₃)</i>	1 tablet twice a day (e.g. one tablet in the morning and one tablet in the evening)
theiCal D3 chewable tablets 	2500mg <i>(equivalent to 1,000mg of calcium)</i>	880 units <i>(equivalent to 22micrograms vitamin D₃)</i>	1 chewable tablet daily NB: Once daily dose

FOR ACTION:

- Adcal D3 contains soya and therefore the patient's allergy status should be checked before substitution. Patients with soya and peanut allergies should be referred to the prescriber or the pharmacy team for advice.
- Patients should be advised of the substitution, and that their own GP may prescribe another Formulary brand of calcium and vitamin D after discharge.
- Patients should be counselled about the different Formulary brand names and their understanding checked, so that patients do not inadvertently take both brands at once, in error.
- Please ensure ALL STAFF are aware of this information, that this is discussed at local team meetings and that it is displayed where staff are able to access and read it.

For more information, please contact joy.davey2@nhs.net