

## Valsartan Recall

Due to the presence of a potentially carcinogenic contaminant in valsartan, Health Canada has [recalled](#) many valsartan products. Various brands, strengths and lots are affected of single-ingredient products; at least one brand of combination valsartan/hydrochlorothiazide has also been affected.

Patients currently taking valsartan will need to be switched to another agent as no uncontaminated brands of valsartan are available. Alternative angiotensin receptor II blockers (ARBs) are appropriate choices in most cases. Valsartan is indicated for hypertension, heart failure and post-myocardial infarction (MI). While all ARBs are indicated for hypertension, not all are indicated (or have data to support their use) for heart failure and post-MI. The table below indicates dosing of ARBs based on outcome data. As indicated, these are estimated equivalencies and patients will need to be monitored

| Doses of Angiotensin Receptor Blockers for Various Indications |  |  |   |                                       |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| ARB  | HYPERTENSION<br>Approximate<br>Equivalent<br>Daily Dose <sup>1-3</sup> | HYPERTENSION<br>Daily Dose<br>Range <sup>4,5</sup> | HEART FAILURE<br>Target Dose <sup>6,7</sup> | POST-MI<br>Target Dose <sup>8,9</sup> | DIABETIC<br>NEPHRO-<br>PATHY<br>Usual Dose <sup>4,5</sup> | CV RISK<br>REDUCTION<br>Usual Dose <sup>4,5</sup> |
| losartan   | 50 mg  | 25-100 mg  | 150 mg daily*                               |                                       | 50-100 mg<br>daily  |   |
| azilsartan   | 40 mg  | 20-80 mg   |   |                                       |   |   |
| candesartan  | 8-16 mg  | 4-32 mg  | 32 mg daily                                 | 32 mg daily*                          |   |   |
| eprosartan   | 600 mg   | 400-800 mg   |   |                                       |   |   |
| irbesartan   | 150 mg   | 75-300 mg  | No difference<br>from placebo               |                                       | 300 mg daily  |   |
| valsartan  | 80 mg  | 80-320 mg  | 160 mg BID                                  | 160 mg BID                            |   |   |
| olmesartan   | 20 mg  | 10-40 mg   |   |                                       |   |   |
| telmisartan  | 40 mg  | 40-80 mg   |   |                                       |   | 80 mg daily                                       |

\*no official indication ARB= angiotensin II receptor blocker; CV = cardiovascular; MI= myocardial infarction

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