



**Strategy and Sustainability Division
MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL POLICY**

DH CIRCULAR No. 271/2009

DH 4256/2009

9th November 2009

Attention all Consultants
Medical Officers
Pharmacists
Pharmacy Technicians
Nurses

Re: Switching over from Venlafaxine 37.5mg to Venlafaxine XL 75mg Prolonged-release capsules

Venlafaxine XL (*Efexor*®) 75mg prolonged-release capsules are now available within the Government Pharmaceutical Stores and will be replacing Venlafaxine 37.5mg capsules. The 75mg XL once daily dose preparation is equivalent to the 37.5mg twice daily dosing.

Venlafaxine 75mg prolonged-release capsules should be taken once daily, at approximately the same time, either in the morning or in the evening. Dose can be increased up to a maximum dose of 375 mg/day depending on the condition at intervals of 2 weeks or more by the Consultant Psychiatrist. The capsules cannot be divided, crushed, chewed, or placed in water.

Treatment with Venlafaxine XL 75mg prolonged-release capsules should not be started until 14 days after discontinuing a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI). All patients should be evaluated for any adverse effects and monitored for clinical worsening.

In case of difficulty patients are to be referred to their Consultant Psychiatrist.

For your attention please.

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Director General

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