

**amlodipine/valsartan 5mg/80mg, 5mg/160mg, 10mg/160mg
(Exforge^o) tablet No. (350/07)**

Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd

Product Update

9 February 2007

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has completed its assessment of the above product and advises NHS Boards and Area Drug and Therapeutic Committees on its use in NHS Scotland. The advice is summarised as follows:

ADVICE: following an abbreviated submission

amlodipine/valsartan (Exforge^o) is accepted for use in NHS Scotland for patients whose blood pressure is not adequately controlled on amlodipine or valsartan monotherapy.

In patients for whom concomitant use of these medicines as a fixed dose combination is appropriate it allows administration of a single tablet at no greater cost than valsartan (Diovan®) alone. Angiotensin receptor blockers are an alternative to ACE inhibitors where these are not tolerated. This fixed dose combination is one of many options for the treatment of hypertension, many of which are less expensive.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at after evaluation of the evidence submitted by the company. It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS Boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

This assessment is based on data submitted by the applicant company up to and including 6 December 2006.

**Vice-Chairman,
Scottish Medicines Consortium**