

# Switching Long Acting Risperidone and Paliperidone Injections

Version Number: 1.0  
Effective Date: September 2021  
Review Date: September 2026

## Version History

Version	Date	Reason for Change
V1	September 2021	New guidance to support prescribers change antipsychotic depots to facilitate less frequent injections for patients.

## Switching from risperidone long acting injection (Consta™)

Switching adults with schizophrenia who are stabilised on 2-weekly risperidone Consta™ (which is non-formulary) to monthly paliperidone palmitate (Xeplion™) is usually advantageous as it means:

- Fewer and less frequent administrations for the patient, which reduces the risks associated with injections (e.g. lumps and nodules at the administration site)
- The patient can choose to have the paliperidone palmitate (Xeplion™) in either the gluteal or deltoid muscle
- There is greater flexibility around the dosing date, it may be given up to 7 days before or after the monthly time point
- Paliperidone palmitate (Xeplion™) does not require refrigeration (unlike Consta™)
- Fewer depot appointments, a total of 12 per year.

Paliperidone is the active metabolite of risperidone.

When switching give the first dose of paliperidone palmitate (Xeplion™) in place of the next scheduled Consta™ injection. Paliperidone palmitate (Xeplion™) should then be continued at calendar monthly intervals.

Dose equivalents are approximately as follows:

Doses of risperidone Consta™ and 1-monthly paliperidone palmitate (Xeplion™) needed to attain similar paliperidone exposure at steady-state	
Previous risperidone long acting injection dose	1-monthly paliperidone injection
25 mg every 2 weeks	50 mg monthly
37.5 mg every 2 weeks	75 mg monthly
50 mg every 2 weeks	100 mg monthly

These medicines are provided via the homecare pharmacy service (Polarspeed). Both the GHC prescription and the polarspeed ordering prescription need to be altered. Paliperidone 1-monthly injection should be prescribed by brand name (Xeplion™).

For more details see the SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7653/smpc>  
Instructions for administration are here (go to page 11): <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.7653.pdf>

## **Switching from 1-monthly to 3-monthly paliperidone palmitate long acting injection**

Adults with schizophrenia who are stabilised and mentally well on 1-monthly paliperidone palmitate long acting injection (Xeplion™) can be offered the option to have paliperidone every 3-months i.e. only 4 injections per year.

This may be a particular advantage for:

- patients who have problems at the injection site with monthly injections
- patients who struggle to attend monthly appointments.

This formulation (Trevicta™) is generally recommended only for those who have been stable and well on the 1-monthly formulation for a period of 6 months, with no acute medical concerns.

Paliperidone 3-monthly injection should be initiated in place of the next scheduled dose of 1-monthly paliperidone injection ( $\pm$  7 days). The dose should be based on the previous dose of the 1-monthly paliperidone, using a 3.5-fold higher dose shown in the following table:

<b>Trevicta™ doses for patients adequately treated with Xeplion™</b>	
<b>If the last dose of 1-monthly paliperidone palmitate is</b>	<b>Initiate 3-monthly paliperidone palmitate at the following dose</b>
50 mg	175 mg
75 mg	263 mg
100 mg	350 mg
150 mg	525 mg

Trevicta™ should be administered once every 3 months ( $\pm$  2 weeks) into the deltoid or gluteal muscle.

These medicines are provided via the homecare pharmacy service (Polarspeed). Both the GHC prescription and the polarspeed ordering prescription need to be altered. Paliperidone 3-monthly injection should be prescribed by brand name (Trevicta™).

There is no purchase cost implication in switching formulations of paliperidone long acting injection.

For more detailed information please see the SPC: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7230>

Instructions for administration are here (go to page 10): <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.7230.pdf>