

Aripiprazole patient information

Your brand of aripiprazole is changing



Do you take Abilify?

If so, your new brand of medicine is called Aripiprazole Sandoz

Aripiprazole Sandoz works the same as other brands of aripiprazole

Aripiprazole Sandoz has the exact same ingredient (aripiprazole) as Abilify. This means your new brand of medicine works in exactly the same way as your old brand. You shouldn't notice any difference in how it affects you.

The change is occurring to provide improved access to aripiprazole and other medications

This change is being made by PHARMAC, the government agency that decides which medicines are funded in New Zealand. PHARMAC also decides which brands of certain medicines will offer the best outcomes for the greatest number of people.

In the case of aripiprazole, a change from the brand Abilify to the brand Aripiprazole Sandoz will ensure more people can be prescribed aripiprazole by their doctor without having to go to a specialist. Aripiprazole will thus be available to more people.

A further benefit of this change is that PHARMAC's limited budget can be used to fund a greater number of other medicines in the community, ensuring that more New Zealanders have access to the medicines they need.

The new brand of tablets will look different

	Your previous brand	Your new brand
	Abilify	Aripiprazole Sandoz
5mg		
10mg		
15mg		
20mg		
30mg		

Ask your pharmacist when your brand will change

The new brand will be available from June 2018.

The new brand will be fully funded, which means you will only pay the \$5 pharmacy co-payment fee when collecting your medicine from the pharmacy.

You do have the option of asking to stay on your current medication. However, because Abilify will no longer be funded by PHARMAC, it may no longer be available to purchase, or if it is, you may need to pay the full cost.

Your new brand has been carefully assessed

Aripiprazole Sandoz has been fully assessed by Medsafe, which is part of the Ministry of Health, and ensures the safety of medicines in New Zealand. Medsafe considered Aripiprazole Sandoz to be just as effective for patients as Abilify.

We understand that medication brand changes can be difficult

PHARMAC recognises that it can be concerning for people when the brand of the medication they are taking changes. We want to assure you that PHARMAC received advice from clinical experts to make sure that changing the brand of aripiprazole from Abilify to Aripiprazole Sandoz will have no negative impact on patients.



Find out more

If you have any questions or concerns about changing brands, please talk with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. You can also get more information from PHARMAC.

Contact us at:

Enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz

0800 66 00 50

www.pharmac.govt.nz/aripiprazole



New Zealand Government

PHARMAC
Pharmaceutical Management Agency