

# Second Generation Antihistamine Therapeutic Interchange

## Drug Information Center

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The UK Medical Center Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P & T) Committee has approved a change in the formulary status of fexofenadine (Allegra®). Effective September 1, 2004, Allegra® will no longer be on the formulary. Loratadine (Claritin®) is generically available and will take the place of fexofenadine (Allegra®) as the preferred second generation antihistamine. Due to its indications for use in patients  $\geq 6$  months of age, cetirizine (Zyrtec®) syrup will remain on the formulary restricted to use in pediatrics. The P & T Committee also approved an automatic therapeutic interchange program to include other marketed agents, such as desloratadine (Clarinex®), and cetirizine (Zyrtec®) tablets. This program allows any orders for non-formulary second generation antihistamines to be converted to the equivalent formulary product.

### Second Generation Antihistamine Therapeutic Interchange for Adult Dosing

Product Ordered	Loratadine Conversion*
<b>Zyrtec®</b>	
Cetirizine 5mg daily	10mg once daily
Cetirizine 10mg daily	10mg once daily
<b>Clarinex®</b>	
Desloratadine 5mg daily	10mg once daily
Desloratadine Redi-tabs 5mg daily	10mg once daily
<b>Allegra®</b>	
Fexofenadine 60mg bid	10mg once daily
Fexofenadine 180mg daily	10mg once daily

This therapeutic interchange is based on available literature that demonstrates the equivalent safety and clinical efficacy of second generation antihistamines.

\* **Adult patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance of  $<30$ ml/min) or liver failure should receive starting doses of 10mg every other day.**