

Nizatidine Switch and Step Down

A proportion of the nizatidine prescribed in general practice was started shortly after ranitidine was withdrawn from the market at a time when famotidine was also in short supply.

Some of these patients may not have been reviewed in the intervening period and the opportunity missed for the medication dose to be decreased or deprescribed.

Nizatidine is licensed for the treatment of the following diseases where reduction of gastric acid is indicated:

- Duodenal ulcer
- Benign gastric ulcer
- Prevention of duodenal or benign gastric ulcer recurrence
- Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease
- Gastric or duodenal ulcer associated with concomitant use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

For each of the above indications the duration of treatment is time-limited but in practice is often extended off-licence for maintenance therapy.

Prescribing information for H₂ receptor antagonists is available from CKS.

Nizatidine has prokinetic effects by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase (AChE). Studies show that nizatidine reduces stomach acid production by 60% compared with the reduction of 40% effected by famotidine. The evidence favours the use of famotidine because the duration of acid suppression is observed to be longer in the patient cohorts receiving this.

Cost

Nizatidine 300mg capsules (30)	£105.78
Nizatidine 150mg capsules (30)	£69.41
Famotidine 40mg tablets (28)	£1.59
Famotidine 20mg tablets (28)	£1.14

Prices from the NHS Electronic Drug Tariff – August 2026

Sustainability

Whilst not a primary consideration when prescribing, the carbon footprint of famotidine is much less than nizatidine.

Nizatidine 300mg capsules	394.66 gCO ₂ e
Nizatidine 150mg capsules	359.65 gCO ₂ e
Famotidine 40mg tablets	280.05 gCO ₂ e
Famotidine 20mg tablets	179.17 gCO ₂ e

Source: Lancet MedZero Database. Lancet MedZero. 2026.
<https://www.medzerocarbon.com>. (5 August 2026).

Expenditure

In the period from June 2025 to May 2026 in the Norfolk and Suffolk ICB area the total expenditure on nizatidine was as follows.

	Items	Cost
Nizatidine 150mg capsules	6196	£443,740.23
Nizatidine 300mg capsules	2823	£212,361.49

Source: [Analyse | OpenPrescribing](#)
OpenPrescribing.net, Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science, University of Oxford, 2026

Recommendation for practices

On clinical efficacy, cost and sustainability metrics famotidine performs better in most cases than nizatidine for prolonged acid suppression.

The prokinetic effect of nizatidine may be beneficial in a very small number of patients.

Review all patients who are receiving nizatidine and consider either switching to famotidine or deprescribing altogether if no longer indicated.

Ardens has a system report set up to assist with identifying patients: Nizatidine – On repeat.

A message is being added to OptimiseRx to support clinicians with prescribing decisions.