



Changing from Effexor XR Capsules to Venlafaxine ER Tablets

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Kaiser Permanente doctors have approved a change in medicines from brand name Effexor (venlafaxine) XR capsules to *generic* venlafaxine ER (extended-release) tablets.

Brand name Effexor XR capsules and *generic* venlafaxine ER tablets contain the **same** active ingredient, venlafaxine. They are similarly safe and effective. Generic venlafaxine ER tablets are available at the lower-tiered co-payment, while brand Effexor XR capsules are priced at the higher brand co-payment for members with tiered-drug benefits.

When changing from brand Effexor XR to *generic* venlafaxine ER, your total daily dose of venlafaxine will remain the **same**. However, some people will take fewer pills to achieve the same dose.

Please read the label on your prescription bottle BEFORE you take *generic* venlafaxine ER tablets and follow the directions on the label carefully.

REMEMBER:

- **DO NOT** take both brand Effexor XR capsules **and** *generic* venlafaxine ER tablets at the **SAME TIME**.
- Use up your supply of brand Effexor XR capsules first, then start taking your *generic* venlafaxine ER tablets as directed instead.
- Generic venlafaxine ER tablets have an outer shell that is not absorbed by the body. You may see the shell in your stools and need not be concerned about it.

Our pharmacists are here to help you get the most benefit from your medicines. Please speak with your pharmacist if you have any questions about this change.