

Supply Issues Bulletin

August 2013

Please Circulate to All Staff

A regular update bulletin which informs and advises GP Practices on the latest medicine supply problems and product discontinuations, with additional local advice on suggested actions or alternatives.

The information is collated from a range of sources.

Information on **product discontinuations** is collated using information received from manufacturers, and also online resources¹.

Intermittent supply problems can occur due to either manufacturing issues causing shortages of **branded** products ('Manufacturer Cannot Supply', **MCS**) or supply issues affecting **generic** medicines, resulting in generics being difficult to obtain at Scottish Drug Tariff Part 7 (SDT) prices, or at all ('**Short Supply**', **SHS**).

Information on Part 7 generic medicines which are identified as being in short supply is published on a monthly basis in the form of SDT Part 13 and is updated throughout the month by ISD (<http://tinyurl.com/ScotDT>). Information is also available via the Community Pharmacy Scotland Website (<http://tinyurl.com/CPS-ShortagesInfo>). Inclusion in Part 13 allows Community Pharmacists to be reimbursed appropriately if higher costs are incurred in obtaining those Part 7 generics listed.

Supply issues are constantly in flux and your local Community Pharmacists will be able to give you up to date advice on availability.

Refs: 1. http://www.pjonline.com/discontinued_products

Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Temazepam tablets 10mg and 20mg	Supply issues over last few months. SDT price has been increased.	Temazepam is extremely difficult to source at present. No new patients should be started on Temazepam. Drug Tariff Part 7 price has been increased significantly to take account of higher prices in the marketplace over the last few months - current SDT cost (Aug 2013) for 28 tablets is £27.08 (10mg) and £26.33 (20mg).
Forceval [®] Tablets	Manufacturing problems, currently unavailable. Not expected to be resolved until the end of 2013.	Forceval [®] effervescent tablets are available and can be prescribed for the duration of the problem. Adults with Autism and selective diets can be referred to Learning Difficulties Dieticians (see July Prescriberfile).
Norfloxacin tablets	Long-term unavailable (July Prescriberfile incorrectly stated discontinued)	Microbiology and gastroenterology consultants, advise that the alternative agent for use in patients requiring prophylaxis against spontaneous bacterial peritonitis associated with liver disease is ciprofloxacin 750mg once weekly.
Anafranil [®] Capsules 10mg and 25mg	Branded Anafranil [®] capsules are currently experiencing supply issues with no date for resolution.	Generic clomipramine capsules are available. Prescribe by generic name.
Trimovate [®] Cream	Market shortage causing delay in supply (no date for resolution).	Alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Gentisone [®] HC ear drops	Market shortage.	Alternative combination products are available. Betnesol N [®] is an alternative Formulary option.
Polytar [®] Liquid	Temporarily Discontinued with no date for resolution.	
Typhim VI [®]	Manufacturer Cannot Supply. Supplies estimated for Oct 2013	

Resolved Supply Issues

Algesal [®] Cream 100g pack – this is now available again
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Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Anugesic [®] HC Suppositories (pramocaine/(existing stocks expected to be exhausted by the end of July 2013)	Review ongoing need for steroid/local anaesthetic preparation. Anusol [®] cream and suppositories are FV Formulary 1 st line product. Uniroid [®] HC suppositories are the FV choice, where a steroid containing suppository preparation with local anaesthetic is required (not 1 st line and should only be used for a few days).

Contact Information:

General Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Contact your Primary Care Pharmacist; or alternatively

Primary Care Prescribing Support Team on 01786-431200

Email: FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net

<http://staffnet.fv.scot.nhs.uk/index.php/a-z/pharmacy/area-wide/bulletins-and-publications/>