

Supply Issues Bulletin

January 2014 (Vol 2, No. 1)

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.

The advice in this bulletin is not intended to serve as a standard of medical care or be applicable in every situation. Decisions regarding the treatment of individual patients must be made by the clinician in light of that patient's presenting clinical condition and with reference to current good medical practice.

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

Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Piroxicam 0.5% gel	Reports of sporadic supplies with generic product	Some pharmacies may have residual stock or be able to obtain sporadic supplies. FV formulary alternative is Algesal [®] .
Valsartan 160mg capsules	Currently supply problems. Resolution expected February 2014	80mg generic capsules are available which pharmacies are able to supply and endorse.
Hydroxocobalamin inj 1mg/ml	Manufacturer cannot supply. Currently no date for resolution.	
Antabuse [®] (disulfiram) 200mg tablets	Still currently unavailable.	Some pharmacies may have residual stock that can be used. FVRH Pharmacy currently has some stock of Disulfiram 200mg, and these options for supply should be investigated first. An imported product, disulfiram 500mg tablets (Esperal [®]) is available from IDIS. This product does not have a UK marketing authorisation - full prescribing responsibility lies with the prescriber. The Substance Misuse Service has advised that 250mg (half a tablet) may be an appropriate alternative dose for patients currently receiving 200mg tablet dose (Esperal [®] tablets are scored, allowing them to be halved). Any patients receiving the imported product should be advised of the new strength/dose. FVRH holds a small supply of the imported product. Further advice may be obtained from Substance Misuse Services (01786-434433).

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Nuelin SA [®] (theophylline) tablets 175mg & 250mg	Some stock is starting to become available but the supply situation is not yet resolved. Current expectation is for stock to become available mid January.	Some pharmacies may have residual stock. Uniphyllin Continus [®] is on the FV formulary but different products are not interchangeable, due to different rates of release and absorption. Where Nuelin [®] is unavailable, local advice is to switch to Uniphyllin [®] Continus and check theophylline levels one week after the switch.
Vibramycin –D [®] (doxycycline monohydrate) dispersible tablets 100mg	Manufacturer expects supply to resume by the end of February.	Doxycycline generic capsules are available. In the meantime for patients unable to swallow capsules, only unlicensed Specials are available. The capsules are NOT suitable for opening as the powder is irritant .
Napratesc [®] (naproxen/misoprostol 500mg/200mcg) tablets	Currently unavailable – no date for resolution.	Generic naproxen standard tablets are the formulary choice, with omeprazole or lansoprazole capsules as gastroprotection.
Morphgesic [®] (morphine) SR tablets	10mg capsules are now available. Other strengths still currently unavailable. No date for resolution.	Where pharmacies do not have residual stock, issue an acute prescription for an alternative brand name product as a short-term measure until supply situation resolves.
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (Jan 2013) for 28 tablets is £23.77 (10mg) and £22.61 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
<p>Ongoing supply issues with: Hyoscine hydrobromide 150mcg (Kwells[®]) & 300mcg (Joy Rides[®]) 150mcg, Polytar[®] Liquid; Forceval[®] Tablets; Norfloxacin tablets are still experiencing problems. See November 2013 bulletin for information and advice. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the Scottish Vaccine Update.</p>		

Resolved Supply Issues

Trimovate [®] Cream is now available again.
Morphine Sulphate Injection 10mg/ml supply problem has resolved

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Anafranil [®] capsules (clomipramine) Supplies are expected to last until end January (10mg & 50mg) and August (25mg).	Ensure generic prescribing. Generic versions are available and in Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff.
Otosporin [®] ear drops (hydrocortisone 1% and neomycin sulphate 3400 units). Supplies are expected to last until end January (5ml) and May (10ml)	Otosporin [®] is not a FV formulary choice. Gentisone HC [®] (hydrocortisone /gentamicin) is a formulary alternative. Other formulary combination products are also available , with differing constituents.

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/>