

Supply Issues Bulletin

October 2013 (Vol 1, No. 2)

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
Maxalt Melt [®] 10mg wafers / Rizatriptan Benzoate Wafers (Oral Lyophilisate) Sugar Free 10 Mg	Market shortage making product difficult to obtain.	Generic Rizatriptan 10mg tablets are available. Generic Rizatriptan orodispersible tablets are available but will require to be handwritten. Sumatriptan products are first-line in the FV formulary.
Gapapentin capsules 300mg	Both Neurontin [®] and generic gabapentin 300mg capsules are reported as difficult to obtain, although not on the Short Supply list.	Pharmacies may experience problems in obtaining 300mg capsules. Short-term scripts for other strengths may be an option where supplies are unobtainable.
Hyoscine hydrobromide 150mcg (Kwells [®]) & 300mcg (Joy Rides [®]) 150mcg	Kwells [®] are expected to be unavailable until at least Jan 2014 and Joy Rides [®] until March 2014	Hyoscine Patches (Scopoderm [®]) are an alternative but supply is likely to be exhausted imminently. Patients prescribed hyoscine for hypersalivation will require consideration of an alternative. The Mental Health (MH) pharmacy team advise that of the alternatives, most experience in FV is with the unlicensed product pirenzepine tablets 50mg. The dose should be tailored for individual need (usual range 25–100mg per day). More information is available here and from the MH Clinical Pharmacists (01324 566728/9 or FV-UHB.MHPharmacy@nhs.net)

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml Syrup	Manufacturer advises unavailable until October 2013.	Generic 1mg and 5mg tablets are available. A 5mg/5ml trifluoperazine solution is available.
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (Oct 2013) for 28 tablets is £27.60 (10mg) and £24.39 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
Morphine Sulphate Injection 10mg/ml	Current supply problems.	Restricted supplies are available via the Palliative Care Network Pharmacies, subject to controls and increased cost and time to obtain.
Gyno-Daktarin® 2% Intra-vaginal cream / Miconazole Nitrate Intravaginal Cream 2 %)	Current supply problems – expected to resolve mid-October	Clotrimazole pessaries and 10% vaginal cream are available as alternatives.
Typhoid/Hep A Vaccine: Typhim® VI, Hepatyrix® and Viatim® Typhoid: Typherix®	Typhim® VI limited supplies. Hepatyrix® and Typherix® estimated availability Q4 2014, Viatim® unavailable - no date for resolution.	Further information is available in the August and September issues of the Scottish Vaccine Update . Vivotif® oral (typhoid) vaccine capsules are available If only Hepatitis A booster is required please prescribe as a single vaccine to ease supply issues of the combination vaccine.
Stamaril® (Yellow fever vaccine)	Supplies expected to be interrupted until the end of 2013	In the UK, Stamaril® (produced by Sanofi) is the only licensed yellow fever vaccine.
Polytar® Liquid	Temporarily Discontinued with no date for resolution.	T/Gel Shampoo is available as a formulary alternative. Capasal® and Sebco® are formulary alternatives containing coal tar in addition to other ingredients. Other formulary alternatives include Dermax® and Ketoconazole shampoo.
Forceval® Tablets	Manufacturing problems, currently unavailable. Not expected to be resolved until the end of 2013	Forceval® effervescent tablets 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).
Trimovate® Cream	Market shortage causing delay in supply (no date for resolution).	Alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the formulary .
Norfloxacin tablets	Long-term unavailable	The alternative agent for prophylaxis against spontaneous bacterial peritonitis associated with liver disease is ciprofloxacin 750mg once weekly.

Resolved Supply Issues

Gentisone® HC drops are now readily available

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Serevent® (salmeterol) diskhalers are to be discontinued with supplies of Refill packs expected to be exhausted by Oct 2013 and Diskhaler plus disks supplies expected to be exhausted by April 2014 .	Formoterol is 1 st line LABA in the FV Formulary and Easyhaler® the most cost-effective dry powder device (prescribed by brand name). Salmeterol is now 3rd line. Review patients and if they are able to use an Easyhaler®, change from Serevent® diskhaler (50mcgs 1 disk twice a day) to Easyhaler® formoterol (16mcgs 1 dose twice a day). (Equivalence from http://thorax.bmj.com/content/55/8/650.long)
Prescal® (isradipine) tablets have been discontinued.	Generic versions of isradipine are available. Isradipine is non-formulary. Amlodipine and felodipine are formulary alternatives.
Dovobet® Ointment has now been discontinued	Dovobet® gel is available. Dovobet® should only be prescribed in accordance with SMC guidance

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/>