

Supply Issues Bulletin

February 2014 (Vol 2, 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.

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.pionline.com/discontinued_products

Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Piroxicam 0.5% gel	Reports of problems with supply of generic product	Some pharmacies may have residual stock or be able to obtain sporadic supplies. FV formulary alternative is Algesal [®] .
Mebeverine 135mg tablets	Supply problems with generic product and branded Colofac [®] . Supplies of branded Colofac [®] are expected to be available before the end of February.	The SDT price of generic mebeverine has been increased from £6.95 to £18.00 for the month of February. This is reviewed nationally on a monthly basis.
Valsartan 160mg & 80mg capsules	Currently supply problems. Two generic suppliers suggest resolution in Quarter 2 2014. There may potentially be problems with other strengths.	40mg generic capsules may still be available which pharmacies are able to supply and endorse. Limited numbers of 80mg appear to be available.
Depo-Medrone [®] (methylprednisolone)	Manufacturer expects supply to resume end of May 2014	Some pharmacies may have residual stock.
Nuelin SA [®] (theophylline) tablets 175mg & 250mg	Manufacturer is out of stock following some supplies being made available. Current expectation is for further stock to become available end March 2014.	Some pharmacies may have 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.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Vibramycin –D [®] (doxycycline monohydrate) dispersible tablets 100mg	Manufacturer expects supply to resume by the end of February 2014.	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. Check current availability with your local Community Pharmacy.
Napratec [®] (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	Some pharmacies are still experiencing problems obtaining some strengths. Manufacturer expects supplies to be replenished imminently.	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 (Feb 2013) for 28 tablets is £23.77 (10mg) and £22.61 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
Antabuse [®] (disulfiram) 200mg tablets	Manufacturer expects product to be available at wholesalers from the end of February.	Check availability with local community pharmacies. 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).
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 . (The December issue of the Vaccine Update is the most relevant)		

Resolved Supply Issues

The situation with Hydroxocobalamin inj 1mg/ml appears to have resolved at the moment.

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Forceval [®] Junior capsules	Other Forceval [®] products remain.
Hydromol [®] HC Intensive cream (Hydrocortisone 1% & Urea 10%)	The separate components are available on the FV formulary. An alternative (non-formulary) product (Alphaderm [®]) remains available.
Meted [®] 3% & 5% Shampoo (salicylic acid & sulphur) Pentrax [®] 4.3% Shampoo (coal tar)	These products are not on FV formulary. Various alternatives are available on FV formulary.

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/>