

# Supply Issues Bulletin

## November 2013 (Vol 1, No. 3) 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 resources<sup>1</sup>.

**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](http://www.pjonline.com/discontinued_products)

## Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Imigran <sup>®</sup> (Sumatriptan) Subject (Sumatriptan Succinate Injection 6mg/0.5ml Pre-Filled Syringe <b>With Device</b> or <b>Refill Pack</b> )	Following a recent recall by the MHRA, Imigran <sup>®</sup> Subject is unavailable (pre-filled syringes <b>and</b> refill pack).	Supplies of Imigran <sup>®</sup> Subject are expected to be available by beginning of December 2013. <b>A generic equivalent is available as a disposable prefilled device.</b> This must be prescribed as "Sumatriptan Succinate Injection 6mg/0.5ml <b>Pre-Filled Disposable Device</b> " on EMIS to allow the generic product to be dispensed.
Gapapentin capsules 300mg	Both Neurontin <sup>®</sup> 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.
Mebeverine tablets 135mg	Reports of erratic availability	
Buccastem <sup>®</sup> 3mg tabs & Prochlorperazine 3mg buccal tablets	Manufacturers and suppliers of both branded and generic are experiencing shortages. A limited amount of stock is being released mid November with normal supply expected by the beginning of December.	Ensure <b>generic</b> prescribing. <a href="#">Formulary</a> options include domperidone, cinnarizine and betahistine depending on the indication.
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. <b>SDT price remains high</b> (Nov 2013) for 28 tablets is £27.60 (10mg) and £24.39 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
<b>Typhoid/Hep A Vaccine:</b> Typhim® VI, Hepatyrrix® and Viatim® <b>Typhoid:</b> Typherix®	Typhim® VI limited supplies. Hepatyrrix® and Typherix® estimated availability Q4 2014, Viatim® unavailable - no date for resolution.	Further information is available in the <a href="#">August</a> and <a href="#">September</a> issues of the <a href="#">Scottish Vaccine Update</a> . 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.
Stamaryl® (Yellow fever vaccine)	Supplies expected to be interrupted until the end of 2013	In the UK, Stamaryl® (produced by Sanofi) is the only licensed yellow fever vaccine.
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.
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 <b>hypersalivation</b> will require consideration of an alternative. The Mental Health (MH) pharmacy team advise that of the alternatives, most experience in FV is with the <b>unlicensed</b> product pirenzepine tablets 50mg. The dose should be tailored for individual need (usual range 25–100mg per day). More information is available <a href="#">here</a> and from the MH Clinical Pharmacists (01324 566728/9 or <a href="mailto:FV-UHB.MHPharmacy@nhs.net">FV-UHB.MHPharmacy@nhs.net</a> )
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 Dermalmax® and Ketoconazole shampoo.
Forceval® Tablets	Manufacturing problems, currently unavailable. Not expected to be resolved until the end of 2013	Forceval® <b>effervescent</b> tablets can be prescribed for the duration of the problem. <b>Adults</b> with Autism and selective diets can be referred to Learning Difficulties Dieticians (see <a href="#">July Prescriberfile</a> ).
Trimovate® Cream	Market shortage causing delay in supply (no date for resolution).	Alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <a href="#">formulary</a> .
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

Gyno-Daktarin® 2% Intra-vaginal cream – Information from Janssen is that this product should now be available from wholesalers
Maxalt Melt® 10mg wafers / Rizatriptan Benzoate Wafers (Oral Lyophilisate) Sugar Free 10mg are available again

### Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Vasace® (cilazapril monohydrate) tablets are being discontinued upon exhaustion of stock, estimated as: Oct 2013 (1mg and 2.5mg); Dec 2013 (0.5mg); Aug 2014 (5mg)	Patients will require a review for a switch to an alternative product. <a href="#">Formulary</a> choices for ACE Inhibitors are Lisinopril, Ramipril and Perindopril.
Aranesp® (darbepoetin alfa) <b>prefilled syringe 15mcg</b> is being discontinued in February 2014 by Amgen.	All other doses of Aranesp® prefilled syringe remain available. Aranesp® SureClick will continue to be available.
Diprobath® emollient 500ml has been discontinued.	Patients should be switched to a <a href="#">formulary</a> alternative.
Dovobet® Ointment has now been discontinued in 120g tubes.	A new 30g tube of ointment is available. Dovobet® <b>gel</b> is also available as an alternative. 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](mailto:FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net)

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