

Supply Issues Bulletin

December 2013 (Vol 1, No. 4) **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 |
|---|--|--|
| Antabuse [®] (disulfiram) 200mg tablets | Currently unavailable, until early January 2014. | 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). |
| Nuelin SA [®] (theophylline) tablets 175mg & 250mg | Currently unavailable, not expected to be back in stock until end of December 2013 approx. | 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. |

| Product | Current Supply Problem | Impact & Advice |
|--|--|---|
| 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 | Currently unavailable – no definite date for resolution, manufacturer is expecting some stocks by end of Dec 2013. | 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. |
| 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. |
| Temazepam tablets | Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (Dec 2013) for 28 tablets is £27.60 (10mg) and £24.39 (20mg) | No new patients should be started on Temazepam. |
| Ongoing supply issues with: Hyoscine hydrobromide 150mcg (Kwells [®]) & 300mcg (Joy Rides [®]) 150mcg, Typhoid/Hep A Vaccine (Typhim [®] VI, Hepatyrrix [®] and Viatim [®]); Typhoid Vaccine (Typherix [®]), Stamaril [®] (Yellow fever vaccine); Polytar [®] Liquid; Forceval [®] Tablets; Trimovate [®] Cream; Norfloxacin tablets. See previous bulletin for information and advice. | | |

| Resolved Supply Issues |
|---|
| Imigran [®] (Sumatriptan) Subject (Sumatriptan Succinate Injection 6mg/0.5ml Pre-Filled Syringe) Supplies are starting to re-enter the marketplace. |
| Gabapentin 300mg capsules – these are now more readily available. Drug Tariff price has been increased to £12.00 for 100 capsules. |
| Mebeverine 135mg tablets – now readily available |

Discontinued Products

| Discontinued Product | FV Formulary & Advice |
|--|---|
| Buccastem [®] (prochlorperazine) 3mg buccal tabs | A generic product is now available. Ensure generic prescribing. Domperidone is alternative 1 st line FV formulary choice for nausea & vertigo; other alternatives include cinnarizine and hyoscine hydrobromide, also on FV formulary |
| Teveten [®] (eprosartan) 400mg film coated tablets | Not a FV formulary choice. Potential opportunity to review patients for switch to FV formulary option: Candesartan (1 st line), Valsartan (2 nd line), Irebsartan or Losartan. Other strengths of Eprosartan exist. |
| Haldol [®] (Haloperidol) Tablets 5mg (end of December for remaining stock) and 10mg (end of January 2014 for remaining stock) | Generic tablets exist – ensure prescribed by generic name. Not for initiation by primary care. |
| Broflex [®] (trihexyphenidyl) preparations have been discontinued. | Generic products are available – prescribe by generic name. |
| Didrone [®] (etidronate) products have been discontinued. | Review patients for formulary alternative. |

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/>