

# Supply Issues Bulletin

**June 2014 (Vol 2, No. 5)**

**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.

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

## Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Valsartan capsules and tablets (generic and branded Diovan <sup>®</sup> )	Currently supply problems with both the generic and branded capsules and tablets. Some pharmacies have reported some intermittent stock available in response to specific enquiries to wholesalers.	Where pharmacies are unable to source the product UKMI have provided guidance on switching to alternative ARBs: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/UKMI-ValsartanAdvice">http://tinyurl.com/UKMI-ValsartanAdvice</a> Prescribers will need to ascertain the most appropriate alternative treatment bearing in mind licensed indications and doses. Candesartan is first line ARB on the FV formulary and losartan is also on the formulary. Local cardiology opinion supports this approach.
Lomotil <sup>®</sup> Tablets	Unavailable until 2015	Generic products are available (co-phenotrope tablets). Co-phenotrope is non-formulary. Loperamide capsules are the formulary choice. Where co-phenotrope is considered necessary, prescribe by generic name.
Piroxicam 0.5% gel	Reports of problems with supply of generic product. Some supplies expected to resume mid to end May.	The Scottish Drug Tariff price of both pack sizes has temporarily be increased to allow dispensing of the branded product (which is currently available) against generic prescriptions. Continue to prescribe by <b>generic name</b> . Where an alternative is required the FV formulary alternative is Algesal <sup>®</sup> .
Vibramycin –D <sup>®</sup> (doxycycline monohydrate) dispersible tablets 100mg	Manufacturer expects supply to resume by the end of June 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 <sup>®</sup> (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.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> (theophylline) tablets 175mg	Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> 175mg strength is not expected to be available until July 2014. Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> 250mg is now available	Some pharmacies may have stock.  Uniphyllin Continus <sup>®</sup> is on the FV formulary but different products are not interchangeable, due to different rates of release and absorption. Where Nuelin <sup>®</sup> is unavailable, local advice is to switch to Uniphyllin <sup>®</sup> Continus and check theophylline levels one week after the switch. Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> 250mg is now available
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. <b>SDT price remains high</b> (June 2014) for 28 tablets is £20.55 (10mg) and £19.64 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Depo-Medrone <sup>®</sup> (methylprednisolone)	Manufacturer expects full supply to resume by end of June 2014 – some pharmacies have reported that 1ml & 2ml vials have become available	Some vial sizes have become available – check availability with local pharmacies in the meantime.
Fucithalmic <sup>®</sup> 0.1% eye drops	Manufacture reports out of stock until the end of June 2014	Formulary alternatives are Chloramphenicol & Gentamicin depending on clinical suitability.
Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules (including branded Praxilene <sup>®</sup> )	Manufacturing issues causing supply problems. Branded manufacturer does not expect supply to resume until September 2014	Patients will require individual review for alternative depending on indication where local pharmacies are unable to source.
Venlafaxine 37.5mg & 75mg standard-release tablets	Currently reported as unavailable with no date for resolution known.	Modified release capsules are available where venlafaxine is indicated.
Nifedipine 5mg capsules (including branded Adalat <sup>®</sup> )	Supply problems reported with both generic and branded 5mg capsules.	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect the supply problems. Continue to prescribe by generic name. Suitable alternatives will require to be considered on an individual basis.
Antepsin <sup>®</sup> (sucralfate) 1g/5ml suspension & 1g tablets	Manufacturer advises there will be no stock availability until the end of 2014 and that no new patients should be initiated.	Advice should be sought from the initiating acute clinician where necessary.
<b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b> Hyoscine hydrobromide - Kwells <sup>®</sup> (150mcg and 300mcg) are <b>available</b> . Joy-Rides <sup>®</sup> 150mcg are still unavailable with no date for resolution - Polytar <sup>®</sup> Liquid is still experiencing problems. See <a href="#">November 2013</a> bulletin for information and advice. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the <a href="#">Scottish Vaccine Update</a> .		

### Resolved Supply Issues

Orphenadrine 50mg tablets – there have been no further reports of shortages for this product
Antabuse <sup>®</sup> (disulfiram) – Supply problems have resolved.
Hyoscine hydrobromide 150mcg & 300mcg (Kwells <sup>®</sup> ) – supplies are now available. Patients who are currently prescribed pirenzepine or Scopoderm <sup>®</sup> for <b>hypersalivation</b> should be reviewed.

### Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Sinepin <sup>®</sup> (Doxepin)	Generic versions are available. Prescribe by generic name.
Preotact <sup>®</sup> (Parathyroid Hormone)	Specialist initiation only – advice should be obtained from acute specialists
Utinor <sup>®</sup> 400mg tablets (Norfloxacin)	The alternative agent for prophylaxis against spontaneous bacterial peritonitis associated with liver disease is ciprofloxacin 750mg once weekly

#### 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/>