

Supply Issues Bulletin

July 2014 (Vol 2, No. 6)

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
Valsartan capsules and tablets (generic and branded Diovan®)	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: http://tinyurl.com/UKMI-ValsartanAdvice 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® 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 increased to allow dispensing of higher priced products (which may be available) against generic prescriptions. Continue to prescribe by generic name . Where an alternative is required the FV formulary alternative is Algesal®.
Vibramycin –D® (doxycycline monohydrate) dispersible tablets 100mg	Manufacturer expects supply to resume by the end of July 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.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Nuelin SA® (theophylline) tablets 175mg	Nuelin SA® 175mg strength is still experiencing manufacturing issues and no date for resolution is available.	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. Nuelin SA® 250mg is now available.
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (July 2014) for 28 tablets is £19.25 (10mg) and £18.13 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
Depo-Medrone® (methylprednisolone)	Manufacturer expects full supply to resume by end of July 2014. 1ml (40mg) single vials are available. All other strengths and pack sizes are expected to become available throughout July.	Some pharmacies may have residual stock. Check local availability.
Fucithalmic® 0.1% eye drops	Branded Fucithalmic® is not available but generic fusidic acid eye drops 0.1% are being distributed to wholesalers.	Prescribe by generic name to allow usage of generic product once this has been made available to pharmacies. In the interim, formulary alternatives are Chloramphenicol & Gentamicin depending on clinical suitability.
Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules (including branded Praxilene®)	Manufacturing issues causing supply problems. Branded product unavailable until September 2014. One generic manufacturer expects supplies to be available from week beginning 7 th July	Patients will require individual review for alternative depending on indication where local pharmacies are unable to source.
Nifedipine 5mg & 10mg capsules (including branded Adalat®)	Some pharmacies report supply problems with both generic and branded products.	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect the supply problems. Continue to prescribe by generic name. Amlodipine and Felodipine are FV 1 st and 2 nd line choice for calcium channel blockers further formulary choices are available where pharmacies are unable to source.
Antepsin® (Sulcralfate) 1G/5ml suspension & 1G tablets	Manufacturer advises no stock availability until the end of 2014 and that no new patients should be initiated.	Advice should be sought from the initiation acute clinician where necessary.
Gentisone® HC	Has been unavailable. Manufacturer states supplies being made available to wholesalers, which should be available to pharmacies shortly.	Alternative combination products are available. Betnesol N® is an alternative formulary option.
Asmasal Clickhaler® (Salbutamol 95mcg powder inhaler)	Unavailable until August 2014	Other dry powder devices are available. Easyhaler® Salbutamol is the cost-effective option. 100mcg per dose would be the equivalent product.
Epipen® Junior	Some supplies issues have been noted – expected resolution week beginning 7 th July	Secondary Care are initiating patients on Emerade® 150mcg as an alternative –patients/carers will need to be advised on device administration.
Fortipine® LA 40mg tablets (Nifedipine MR)	Manufacturer advises that unavailable until October 2014	Alternative modified release (MR) preparation will require to be prescribed as no other 40mg once daily preparation exists. Formulary options for MR nifedipine are Coracten® preparations. Patients will require to be monitored as MR calcium channel blockers are not bioequivalent. Prescribe by brand name .
Ongoing supply issues with: Hyoscine hydrobromide - Kwells® (150mcg and 300mcg) are available . Joy-Rides® 150mcg are still unavailable with no date for resolution - Polytar® Liquid; still experiencing problems and the earliest resolution date has now been given as 2016. See November 2013 bulletin for information and advice. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the Scottish Vaccine Update . Pharmacies are reporting problems obtaining Typhim Vi®		

Resolved Supply Issues

Venlafaxine 37.5mg & 75mg standard tablets – there have been no further reports of shortages for this product

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Macrochantin® (Nitrofurantoin) 100mg capsules	Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name
Emcor® & Emcor LS® tablets (Bisoprolol).	Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name
Fru-Co® tablets 5/40 (Co-amlofruse)	Generic versions are available – Prescribe by generic name
Froben® (Flurbiprofen) 50mg & 100mg tablets	Flurbiprofen is non-formulary –first-line formulary NSAID choices are Ibuprofen or Naproxen,

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/>