

Supply Issues Bulletin

August 2014 (Vol 2, No. 7)

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 |
|--|--|--|
| Antepsin [®] (Sulcralfate) 1G/5ml suspension & 1G tablets | No new patients should be initiated. Manufacturer advises no UK licensed stock availability until 2015. | Imported product (unlicensed in the UK) is available from IDIS. Pharmacies have been advised that this is available via the local unlicensed Specials process as an interim measure whilst the UK product is unavailable. PSD will also accept endorsements during this time. Pharmacies have been advised to return to using the UK licensed product once it becomes available again. |
| Nuelin SA [®] (theophylline) tablets 175mg and 250mg | Nuelin SA [®] 175mg and 250mg strengths are 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. |
| Temazepam tablets | Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (Aug 2014) for 28 tablets is £19.25 (10mg) and £18.13 (20mg) | No new patients should be started on Temazepam. |
| Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules (including branded Praxilene [®]) | Manufacturing issues causing supply problems. One generic manufacturer expects supplies to be available from mid-August but most stating mid-September. No date available for branded product. | Patients will require individual review for alternative depending on indication where local pharmacies are unable to source. Ensure generic prescribing. |
| Nifedipine 5mg & 10mg capsules (including branded Adalat [®]) | Most pharmacies are now reporting supplies of both branded and generic product are available sporadically. | 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 and further formulary choices are available where pharmacies are unable to source. |

| Product | Current Supply Problem | Impact & Advice |
|---|--|--|
| Gentisone [®] HC | Has been unavailable. Manufacturer states supplies being made available to wholesalers, which should be available to pharmacies shortly. | Most pharmacies are reporting stock is now available. Where product cannot be sourced alternative combination products are available. Betnesol N [®] is an alternative formulary option. |
| Asmasal Clickhaler [®] (Salbutamol 95mcg powder inhaler) | Unavailable until early September 2014 | Other dry powder devices are available. Easyhaler [®] Salbutamol is the cost-effective option. 100mcg per dose would be the equivalent product. |
| Epipen [®] | Stocks of Adult versions are now available again. Supplies of Junior product are expected to be available in the 2 nd week in August. | Pharmacies have reported being able to obtain product via direct requests to the manufacturer. Secondary Care are initiating patients on Emerade [®] 150mcg as an alternative in the meantime –patients/carers will need to be advised on device administration. |
| Duac [®] Gel (all strengths) | Manufacturer advises that supplies will be available at the end of August 2014 | An alternative product will be required. |
| Eumovate [®] (clobetasone) Cream, Trimovate [®] and other GSK dermatology products | GSK report general manufacturing issues at their dermatology facility, resulting in no further product being issued at present. | Generic versions of betamethasone, clobetasone (Dermovate [®] equivalent) and a generic version of clobetasone OINTMENT are available. Ensure generic prescribing. Where a cream formulation is required, avoid using clobetasone during supply issues. Alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the formulary where Trimovate [®] would have been selected. |
| Fersaday [®] (Ferrous fumarate) 322mg tablets | Manufacturer advises unavailable until September 2014 | The formulary choice is Ferrous fumarate 210mg tablets (generic) where clinically appropriate. |
| Diamox [®] SR (Acetazolamide) 250mg capsules | Manufacturer advises unavailable until November 2014 | To be initiated on ophthalmologist advice only. Alternative versions of the MR product are available – prescribe by generic name. |
| Fortipine [®] LA 40mg tablets (Nifedipine MR) | Manufacturer advises 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: Valsartan, Napratec [®] and Lomotil [®] supply issues continue – see July 2014 bulletin for advice. 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 . | | |

Resolved Supply Issues

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| Piroxicam 0.5% Gel – pharmacies are reporting that stocks are becoming available. The SDT price remains at the higher level for August. Continue to prescribe by generic name. |
| Vibramycin –D [®] (doxycycline monohydrate) dispersible tablets 100mg – supply problems have resolved. Generic capsules are the preferred formulation. |
| Depo-Medrone [®] (methylprednisolone) manufacturer reports that all strengths are now available as single vials. Packs of 10 are expected to be available from mid-August. |

Discontinued Products

| Discontinued Product | FV Formulary & Advice |
|--|---|
| Surmontil [®] (trimipramine) 10mg, 25mg and 50mg | Non-formulary – other formulary options are available. Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name |
| Ikorel [®] (nicorandil) 10mg and 20mg tablets | Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name |
| Locorten-Vioform [®] (Flumetasone/ Clioquinol) eye drops | Generic versions are now available – prescribe by generic name |
| Klaricid [®] (clarithromycin) tablets 250mg and 500mg | Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name |
| Rivotril [®] (clonazepam) 0.5mg and 2mg tablets | Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name |
| Welldorm [®] elixir (chloral hydrate) 143.3mg/5ml (150ml) | No licensed alternative chloral hydrate products are available. |
| Utrogestan [®] oral caps 200mg (micronized progesterone) | Seek specialist advice. |
| Eldepryl [®] syrup (selegiline) 10mg/5ml | Tablets are available. |
| Fucithalmic [®] (fusidic acid) 1% eye drops | Generic versions are available – prescribe by generic name (Fusidic Acid M/R Eye Drops 1%) |

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/>