

# Supply Issues Bulletin

**Sept-Oct 2014 (Vol 2, No. 8)**

**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
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. <b>SDT price remains high</b> (Sept 2014) for 28 tablets is £19.25 (10mg) and £18.13 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules (including branded Praxilene®)	Manufacturing issues causing supply problems. No known date of resolution for generic product. Manufacturer states branded product will be available in November	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 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> line choice for calcium channel blockers and further formulary choices are available where pharmacies are unable to source (NB unlicensed for Raynauds). -

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Gentisone <sup>®</sup> HC	Branded product unavailable.	Manufacturer states <b>generic product</b> (Gentamicin/Hydrocortisone Acetate) available from beginning of October. Ensure prescribed by generic name. Where product cannot be sourced alternative combination products are available. Betnesol N <sup>®</sup> is an alternative formulary option.
Asmasal Clickhaler <sup>®</sup> (Salbutamol 95mcg powder inhaler)	Unavailable until early November 2014	Other dry powder devices are available. Easyhaler <sup>®</sup> Salbutamol is the cost-effective option. 100mcg per dose would be the equivalent product.
Epipen <sup>®</sup>	Stocks of Adult versions are now available again. Limited supplies of Junior product are expected to be available at the end of September 2014	Pharmacies are not currently reporting any particular issues. Secondary Care are initiating patients on Emerade <sup>®</sup> 150mcg as an alternative in the meantime –patients/carers will need to be advised on device administration.
Duac <sup>®</sup> Gel (all strengths)	Manufacturer advises that supplies will be available at the end of October 2014	An alternative product will be required.
Betnovate <sup>®</sup> , Cutivate <sup>®</sup> , Dermovate <sup>®</sup> , Eumovate <sup>®</sup> , Trimovate <sup>®</sup> , and other GSK dermatology products	GSK report general manufacturing issues at their dermatology facility resulting in no further product being issued at present. It is possible that stock will remain limited during November and December.	Generic versions of <b>betamethasone, clobetaSOL</b> (Dermovate <sup>®</sup> equivalent) and a generic version of <b>clobetaSONE OINTMENT</b> (Eumovate <sup>®</sup> OINTMENT equivalent) are available. <b>Ensure generic prescribing.</b> Where a <b>cream</b> formulation is required, avoid using clobetaSONE during supply issues. Alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <a href="#">formulary</a> where Trimovate <sup>®</sup> would have been selected. Cutivate <sup>®</sup> formulary alternative is <b>generic</b> betamethasone 0.1% (cream or oint), (Information adapted from Lothian Medicines Management Team),.
Zovirax <sup>®</sup> (acyclovir) eye ointment	GSK product (see above)	To be initiated on advice from secondary care. No generic available. Ganciclovir 0.15% ophthalmic gel is available where advised by advised by Secondary Care.
Bactroban <sup>®</sup> (mupirocin) 2% nasal cream	GSK product (see above)	No generic alternative available. Naseptin <sup>®</sup> (Neomycin/Chlorhexidine Hydrochloride) cream is available as an alternative – usually for non-MRSA nasal staphylococcal carriage. Use only following microbiology advice.
Bactroban <sup>®</sup> 2% (mupirocin) cream or ointment	GSK product (see above)	Generic version of ointment available – prescribe by generic name as ointment.
Glucophage <sup>®</sup> SR (metformin) tablets 1000mg	1000mg currently unavailable, earliest expected date of resolution is November 2014	Generic versions are available – ensure written by generic name.
Diamox <sup>®</sup> 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.
Ranitidine (branded Zantac <sup>®</sup> ) and generic 150mg and 300mg tablets	GSK report manufacturing issues with Zantac <sup>®</sup> and supplies will be available end October 2014. Some issues reported with generic products.	Generic versions available – prescribe by generic name to allow any available generic product to be supplied.
NiQuitin Lozenges	GSK report general manufacturing issues and product has been recalled from wholesalers	No date of resolution but will be 2015 before available. Other nicotine lozenge products are available – prescribe by generic name or select alternative brand.
Morphgesic <sup>®</sup> SR (morphine sulphate) 60mg and 100mg tablets	Manufacturer advises unavailable until end of November 2014	10mg and 30mg tablets are available. As a short-term measure prescriptions could be issued by generic name or an alternative brand prescribed (eg MST).
Demeclocycline 150mg capsules	Manufacturer advises unavailable until November 2014	Depending on indication alternative products should be used. Advice will be issued separately for patients prescribed the product for SIADH.
Chlordiazepoxide tablets and capsules (all strengths, brand and generic)	No date for resolution.	See advice on following pages.
<b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b> Valsartan, Napratec <sup>®</sup> and Lomtil <sup>®</sup> supply issues continue – see <a href="#">July 2014</a> bulletin for advice. Hyoscine hydrobromide - <b>Kwells<sup>®</sup> (150mcg and 300mcg) are available.</b> Joy-Rides <sup>®</sup> 150mcg are still unavailable with no date for resolution - Polytar <sup>®</sup> Liquid; still experiencing problems and the earliest resolution date has now been given as 2016. 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

Fersaday <sup>®</sup> (Ferrous fumarate) 322mg tablets - supply problems have resolved.
Fortipine <sup>®</sup> LA 40mg tablets (Nifedipine MR – supply problems resolved.

### 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.nett

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

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Lamisil® (terbinafine) 1% cream 15g	Generic cream available although some 15g OTC packs remain. Recommend using the 30g pack to ensure license covers indication
Voltarol® 4% spray (diclofenac)	Non-formulary - other preparations are available
Gynest® 0.01% cream (estriol)	Non-formulary – other options are available. A generic version of the non-formulary product is available.
Trasicor® 40mg tablets (oxprenolol)	Generic versions are available - prescribe by generic name

### Chlordiazepoxide Shortage Advice

There is a current shortage of Chlordiazepoxide (licensed as an adjunct in acute alcohol withdrawal). This affects all manufacturers and strengths and is the result of an issue with the supply of raw materials.

At present no wholesaler is reporting stock of the 5mg or 10mg capsules or 5mg tablets. Sporadic supplies of 10mg tablets are reported by one wholesaler. Information regarding next supplies is vague, with some supplies possible during October. We would advise checking the current situation with your local Community Pharmacies.

Community pharmacies may still have stock available but may not at present be able to source additional stock from wholesalers.

#### Advice for GP prescribers

Detoxification should be accompanied by psychological support provided by Signpost Recovery in line with Forth Valley [Community Management of Alcohol Withdrawal](#) guideline. The recommended first line pharmacological agent for detoxification is chlordiazepoxide.

**We recommend contacting the patient's pharmacy prior to writing a prescription as some pharmacies may still have sufficient stock to supply the complete course. Write the prescription appropriately for the stock available (capsule or tablet and strength).**

#### **Alternative medication**

If chlordiazepoxide cannot be sourced diazepam is a licensed alternative benzodiazepine and may be substituted. The BNF quotes a conversion of 5mg diazepam = 12.5mg chlordiazepoxide.

Due to the potential illicit value of diazepam, instalment dispensing should be carefully considered and the tablets prescribed in the 2mg strength only.

The regime overleaf is a direct conversion from the [NICE Alcohol Use Disorders](#) sample dosing regimens for managing alcohol withdrawal. This regimen is based on moderate dependence for someone with daily alcohol consumption of 15-25 units and with SADQ score of 15-25. The reducing schedule may be **started at day one, two or three** depending on severity of dependence.

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<u>Diazepam</u>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Tea time</b>	<b>Bedtime</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	10mg	10mg	10mg	10mg
<b>Day 2</b>	8mg	8mg	8mg	8mg
<b>Day 3</b>	6mg	6mg	6mg	6mg
<b>Day 4</b>	4mg	4mg	4mg	4mg
<b>Day 5</b>	4mg	4mg	-	4mg
<b>Day 6</b>	2mg	2mg	-	2mg
<b>Day 7</b>	2mg	-	-	2mg
<b>Day 8</b>	-	-	-	2mg

In liver impairment a benzodiazepine which requires limited liver metabolism should be used. Consider advice or referral to specialist services.

### **Community Pharmacies**

Where a prescription for chlordiazepoxide is received, confirm that the full supply can be provided. Where stock cannot be obtained from wholesalers or from other pharmacies, contact the prescriber with regard to requesting a change of prescription as above. If the prescriber does not feel this is within their competence, they should contact a prescriber at the Community Alcohol & Drug Service (CADS).

Additional information and updates on the current stock position will be provided when available.

### **For further support / information please contact**

Substance Misuse Pharmacist:  
Jean B. Logan 01786 454798 or 07920 711 033

Community Alcohol & Drug Service:  
North: 01786 434433  
South: 01324 630957

*Advice based on information obtained from NHS Ayrshire & Arran Medicines Utilisation Unit. Reducing schedule information and local contacts information provided by Jean Logan, Substance Misuse Pharmacist.*

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