

Supply Issues Bulletin

December 2014 (Vol 2, No. 9) **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
Betnovate [®] , Cutivate [®] , Dermovate [®] , Eumovate [®] , Trimovate [®] , and other GSK dermatology products	<p>Full information for individual products can be found at http://hcp.qsk.co.uk/supply.html</p> <p>Be aware that there can be delays between product being made available by the manufacturer and subsequent availability to pharmacies via wholesalers for supply against prescriptions.</p>	<p>Generic versions of betamethasone, clobetaSOL (Dermovate[®] equivalent) and a generic version of clobetaSONE OINTMENT (Eumovate[®] OINTMENT equivalent) 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. Cutivate[®] formulary alternative is generic betamethasone 0.1% (cream or oint), (Information adapted from Lothian Medicines Management Team).</p> <p>Pharmacies are now reporting sporadic problems with some generic versions due to increased demand.</p>
Gentisone [®] HC / Gentamicin+Hydrocortisone Ear Drops	Branded product discontinued. Generic product not expected to be available until April 2015	Where product cannot be sourced alternative combination products are available. Betnesol N [®] is an alternative formulary option.
Gentamicin 0.3% eye drops	Generic manufacturer states resolution date of April 2015	
Sertraline 50mg tablets	Some pharmacies are reporting supply issues. One generic manufacturer states expected resolution date as Q1 2015	Some pharmacies may have residual stock – check with local pharmacies. Where product is unavailable citalopram is a possible alternative unless the patient has a cardiac history or is on other medication which prolongs the QTc interval, in which case fluoxetine is preferable. Contact the Mental Health Pharmacy team for specific advice: 01324-566728.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Haloperidol 500mcg capsules	Generic manufacturer advises resolution date of January 2015	It is recommended in the interim, that prescriptions should be supplied for haloperidol 5mg/5ml oral solution - a dose of 500 micrograms would be equivalent to 0.5ml There are two strengths of haloperidol oral solution available - 5mg/5ml and 10mg/5ml (Haldol®) Use of the higher strength preparation would involve measuring a volume of 0.25ml for a 500 microgram dose which would be difficult to achieve (Information courtesy of NHS A&A).
Asmasal Clickhaler® (Salbutamol 95mcg powder inhaler)	Unavailable until January 2015.	Other dry powder devices are available. Easyhaler® Salbutamol is the cost-effective option. 100mcg per dose would be the equivalent product.
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.
Zovirax® (aciclovir) eye ointment	Expected resolution date of end April 2015	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.
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.
Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules)	Manufacturing issues causing supply problems with generic product. No known date of resolution for generic product. Branded Praxilene® is fully available.	The Scottish Drug Tariff price remains adjusted to reflect the supply situation – Continue to prescribe by generic name.
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (Dec 2014) for 28 tablets is £19.77 (10mg) and £18.99 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
Nifedipine 5mg & 10mg capsules	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 (NB unlicensed for Raynauds). -
Bactroban® 2% (mupirocin) cream or ointment	GSK report limited availability of Bactroban® 2% cream with full resolution date for both the cream and ointment of February 2015	Generic version of ointment available – prescribe by generic name as ointment.
Glucophage® SR (metformin) tablets 1000mg	Manufacturer reports that supplies have left for wholesalers and full resolution should be complete in the next couple of weeks	Generic versions are available – ensure written by generic name. Some pharmacies are reporting problems obtaining generic supply – check other pharmacies for available stock. Prescribing by generic name will allow any available product, including Glucophage® SR to be supplied.
Diamox® SR (Acetazolamide) 250mg capsules	Manufacturer advises unavailable until June 2015	To be initiated on ophthalmologist advice only. Alternative versions of the MR product are available – prescribe by generic name.
Morphgesic® SR (morphine sulphate) Various strengths	Manufacturer advises that all strengths are now available so supply problems may resolve in due course.	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 June 2015	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)	Community pharmacies are reporting some availability of capsules in both strengths.	See advice on following pages until full resolution.
Ranitidine (branded Zantac®) and generic 150mg and 300mg tablets	GSK report manufacturing issues with Zantac® and supplies will be available end January 2015. Some issues reported with generic products.	Generic versions available – prescribe by generic name to allow any available generic product to be supplied.
Oilatum® Shower Gel (Fragrance free only)	Manufacturer states unavailable until March 2015	

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/>

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Mefenamic acid 500mg tablets	One generic manufacture gives resolution date as Q1 2015	Some pharmacies may have residual stocks. Supplies of 250mg capsules may be available, otherwise an alternative NSAID will need to be prescribed, Mefenamic acid is not on FV formulary. Formulary choices include ibuprofen and naproxen
Brufen [®] 600mg tablets & generic Ibuprofen 600mg tablets	Branded manufacturer advises resolution date of January 2015 while one generic supplier states March 2015	Ensure prescribed by generic name. 400mg & 200mg tablets are available.
Dalacin T [®] (clindamycin) Solution	Manufacturer gives resolution date of January 2015	Dalacin T is non-formulary. Alternative formulary choices are available.
Ongoing supply issues with: Napratec [®] , NiQuitin [®] Lozenges supply issues continue. Lomotil [®] expected to be available June 2015 – 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 -. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the Scottish Vaccine Update .		

Resolved Supply Issues
Valsartan (all strengths) – no further supply issues have been reported
Epipen [®] – both Adult and Junior single pens are now available .
Bactroban [®] 2% nasal cream (mupirocin) – Manufacturer states now fully available
Duac [®] gel (all strengths) – Manufacturer states now fully available.

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Polytar [®] range of products	T/Ge [®] 1 Shampoo is available as a formulary alternative. Capasal [®] and Sebco [®] are formulary alternatives containing coal tar in addition to other ingredients. Other formulary alternatives include Dermax [®] and Ketoconazole shampoo.
Symmetrel [®] (amantadine) 100mg capsules & 50mg/5ml syrup & Lysovir [®] (amantadine) 100mg capsules	Generic products are available for both 100mg capsules & 50mg/5ml syrup – Ensure generic prescribing
Asmabec [®] (beclometasone) 250mcg & 50mcg Clickhaler	FV 1 st line corticosteroid is Clenil Modulite [®] where an MDI is suitable.
Tegretol [®] (carbamazepine) Chewtabs 100mg & 200mg. 100mg tablet stocks expected to last up to May 2015	Tegretol 100mg/5ml suspension is available as are standard Tegretol [®] . Generic tablet versions are also available, depending on indication.
Beta-Cardone [®] (Sotalol) 40mg tablets	Generic products are available – Ensure generic prescribing
Lescol [®] (Fluvastatin) 40mg capsules	Generic alternatives are available – Ensure generic prescribing
Piportil (pipotiazine) Depot injections 100mg/2ml & 50mg/1ml	Patients should have been reviewed by the Mental Health Team.

Chlordiazepoxide Shortage Advice

There is a current shortage of Chlordiazepoxide (licensed as an adjunct in acute alcohol withdrawal). Local pharmacies are reporting some supplies of capsules. Given the sporadic nature of the supply we would advise checking the current situation with your local pharmacy before prescribing to check the current situation.

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 have sufficient stock to supply the complete course. Write the prescription appropriately for the stock available (capsule or tablet and strength).

Alternative medication (continued on next page)

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/>

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.

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