

# Supply Issues Bulletin

January 2016 (Vol 4, No. 1)

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.pionline.com/discontinued\\_products](http://www.pionline.com/discontinued_products)

## Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Pioglitazone tablets	Pharmacies are reporting problems sourcing pioglitazone tablets. One generic manufacturers give a resolution date for all strengths of February 2016	<p>Some supplies are available. Where pharmacies are unable to source pioglitazone, the following local advice has been issued via email.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients with a recent HbA1c within target range should continue with their current supply of pioglitazone until it is complete and HbA1c checked 3 months after the last dose was taken.</li> <li>• Patients whose most recent HbA1c was outside target range should be reviewed for an alternative agent</li> <li>• If HbA1c has not deteriorated significantly (&lt;5mmol/mol change) and remains within target range for the patient after 3 months, pioglitazone should not be restarted and an alternative agent should not be required</li> <li>• If HbA1c has deteriorated (&gt; 5mmol/mol change) or is not within target range, pioglitazone can be restarted if it is available or an alternative agent can be initiated using the FV hypoglycaemic agent guidance (appendix 24 in the <a href="#">FV formulary</a>), in conjunction with the <a href="#">FV Diabetes Management Guidelines</a>.</li> </ul>
Proctosedyl® (cincochaine/hc) ointment	Manufacturer has zero stock but gives resolution date as end of January 2016	Uniroid® HC is the formulary alternative if a steroid containing preparation with anaesthetic required, but steroid preparations are not 1st line and should only be used for a few days. Anusol® is the 1 <sup>st</sup> formulary option.
Sno Tears® (polyvinyl alcohol 1.4%)	No date for resolution	Carbomer 980 (polyacrylic acid 0.2%) is FV 1 <sup>st</sup> line option for treatment of tear deficiency and ocular lubricant. Other formulary lubricants are also available.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Synalar <sup>®</sup> 1 in 10 dilution Cream (Fluocinolone acetonide)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution	Hydrocortisone would be an alternative mild potency steroid.
Megace <sup>®</sup> 160mg (megestrol) tablets	Manufacturer states that they expect full resolution end February 2016.	Unlicensed products are available in the short-term until licensed product becomes available. The local Specials process should be followed by Community Pharmacists.
Bumetanide 1mg tablets	Generic manufactures indicate possible resolution date of end February 2016	Furosemide is FV formulary 1 <sup>st</sup> line choice loop diuretic. Additionally 5mg bumetanide tablest may be available and a liquid formulation is available at a much higher cost (£168 for 150ml).
Lacri-Lube <sup>®</sup> eye ointment	Manufacturer states resolution date of supply March 2016	A similar paraffin-based product is Xailin Night <sup>®</sup> lubricating eye ointment although there have also been reports of supply problems with this product but these are expected to resolve imminently. Other ocular lubricants are also available.
Zantac <sup>®</sup> 150mg tablets	Manufacturer has no date for resolution	Generic ranitidine is available - prescribe by <b>generic</b> name
Creon <sup>®</sup> 40,000 gastro-resistant capsules (pancreatic enzymes)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution	The manufacturer recommends switching patients currently established on a 40,000 unit capsule regimen to Creon <sup>®</sup> 25,000 to lower the pill burden. Suggested conversions to 25,000 unit capsules: 1 x 40,000u capsule TO 2 x 25,000u capsules 2 x 40,000u capsules TO 3 x 25,000u capsules. 10,000u capsules are also available. (Ref: 'Dear Healthcare Professional' letter, Abbot March 2015)
Zovirax <sup>®</sup> (aciclovir) eye ointment	Manufacturer states resolution date of end March 2016	To be initiated on advice from secondary care. No generic available. Ganciclovir 0.15% ophthalmic gel is available where advised by Secondary Care.
Antepsin <sup>®</sup> (Sulcralfate) 1G/5ml suspension & 1G tablets	No new patients should be initiated. Manufacturer expects resolution of UK licensed stock availability Q3 2016.	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.
Trimovate <sup>®</sup> (clobetasone butyrate/nystatin/oxytetracycline)	<b>Full information for individual products can be found at <a href="http://hcp.gsk.co.uk/supply.html">http://hcp.gsk.co.uk/supply.html</a></b> GSK is reporting full availability of products with the exception of <b>Trimovate<sup>®</sup></b> which now has a limited supply availability with full resolution expected by the end of February 2016	Trimovate <sup>®</sup> supply is limited and is likely to be sporadic - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <a href="#">formulary</a> where Trimovate <sup>®</sup> would have been selected.
Temazepam tablets	SDT price remains high (January 2016) for 28 tablets is £5.86 (10mg) and £5.83 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Nifedipine 5mg capsules	One generic manufacturer states no resolution date. Branded Adalat <sup>®</sup> remains available.	<b>Continue to prescribe by generic name.</b> 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).
Demeclocycline 150mg capsules	Manufacturer expects resolution by February 2016	Depending on indication alternative products should be used. Advice will be issued separately for patients prescribed the product for SIADH.
Cholestagel <sup>®</sup> 625mg film coated tablets (colesevelam hydrochloride)	Manufacturer (Sandoz) states some stock is available to pharmacies on direct request to the company. Phone 01483-505515	This product is not on the FV formulary
Questran <sup>®</sup> powder for oral suspension 4g (colestyramine)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution.	Generic <b>sugar-free</b> colestyramine sachets are available, as is Questran <sup>®</sup> Light (sugar-free version).
Mefenamic Acid: Ponstan <sup>®</sup> 500mg tablets 250mg capsules (Ponstan <sup>®</sup> and generic)	No resolution date for Ponstan <sup>®</sup> 500mg tablets. Limited availability of both branded and generic 250mg capsules – expect sporadic supply..	Mefenamic acid is not on FV formulary. Formulary choices include ibuprofen and naproxen. The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased for the generic 500mg tablets. <b>Continue to prescribe by generic name.</b> Some pharmacies may have residual stocks of the 250mg capsules. An alternative NSAID may need to be prescribed.

#### 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/>

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Brufen® 600mg tablets and generic 600mg tablets	Branded manufacturer expected resolution by March 2016.	Some generic product may be available. In the absence of 600mg tablets, generic tablets are <b>available at other strengths - ensure prescribed by generic name.</b> Prescribers are reminded that the lowest dose of NSAID should be used for the shortest time required.
<b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b> Napratec®, NiQuitin® Lozenges supply issues continue. Lomotil® expected to be available end of 2016 – see <a href="#">July 2014</a> bulletin for advice. Hyoscine hydrobromide - <b>Kwells® (150mcg and 300mcg) are available.</b> Joy-Rides® 150mcg are still unavailable but have a provisional resolution date of January 2016. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the <a href="#">Scottish Vaccine Update</a> .		

Resolved Supply Issues
Caverject® (Alprostadil ) powder for reconstitution 40mcg vial
Oilatam® Shower Gel ( <b>Fragrance free</b> )

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Pulvinal® beclometasone 100mcg, 200mcg & 400mcg	Alternative is 1 <sup>st</sup> line formulary choice Clenil Modulite®
Pulvinal® salbutamol 200mcg	FV preferred dry-powder inhaler is Easyhaler® salbutamol
Asmasal® (salbutamol) Clickhaler 95mcg	FV preferred dry-powder inhaler is Easyhaler® salbutamol <b>100mcg</b>
Gyno-Daktarin® (Miconazole) 1200mg vaginal capsule	Clotrimazole vaginal products are alternative formulary options
Climagest® 1mg tablets (1 mg oestradiol valerate and 1 mg norethisterone)	Alternative HRT products are available in the <a href="#">FV Formulary</a>

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