

# Supply Issues Bulletin

**March-April 2015 (Vol 3, No. 2)**

**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
Ferrous fumarate 210mg tablets	Manufacturer (AmdiPharm) states resolution date of May 2015	Where supply cannot be obtained by individual pharmacies please prescribe Ferrous Sulphate 200mg tablets
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)
Ventmax <sup>®</sup> SR 4mg & 8mg capsules (salbutamol sulphate)	Manufacturer states resolution date of May 2015	Oral salbutamol is not a recommended therapy. Please review patient for alternative inhaled therapy. Where oral therapy is judged to be the only option for the patient, generic non-MR tablets are available.
Gentamicin 0.3% eye drops	Generic manufacturer states resolution date of June 2015	
Lustral <sup>®</sup> (sertraline) 50mg & 100mg tablets	Branded Lustral <sup>®</sup> is unavailable until mid-April 2015.	Generic sertraline is available – prescribe by <b>generic</b> name.
Half Securon <sup>®</sup> 120mg (verapamil)	Manufacturer states that Half Securon <sup>®</sup> will be available from 22 <sup>nd</sup> April.	Some pharmacies may have residual stock – check with local pharmacies. The 240mg tablet is scored and can be halved in the meantime.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Betnovate <sup>®</sup> , Cutivate <sup>®</sup> , Dermovate <sup>®</sup> , Eumovate <sup>®</sup> , Trimovate <sup>®</sup> , and other GSK dermatology products	<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>  Pharmacies are reporting sporadic supply. Dermovate <sup>®</sup> in all formulations is now fully available There is limited availability of Cutivate <sup>®</sup> and Trimovate <sup>®</sup> . Betnovate <sup>®</sup> and Eumovate <sup>®</sup> continue to have supply problems with expected resolution dates of end of May and June 2015 respectively.	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 cream formulation is required, avoid using clobetasone during supply issues. <b>Trimovate<sup>®</sup> is NOT currently available</b> - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <b>formulary</b> 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). <b>Pharmacies are now reporting sporadic problems with some generic versions due to increased demand.</b>
Haloperidol 500mcg Tablets	Generic manufacturer of Haloperidol 500mcg tablets expect availability by end of April 2015. Branded Serenace <sup>®</sup> CAPSULES are available.	Check availability with local pharmacies Prescribe by <b>generic</b> name as haloperidol 500mcg <b>capsules</b> .
Zovirax <sup>®</sup> (aciclovir) eye ointment	Manufacturer states out of stock with no resolution until Q1 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 in Q1 of 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.
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. <b>SDT price remains high</b> (March 2015) for 28 tablets is £17.97 (10mg) and £17.46 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Nifedipine 5mg & 10mg capsules	Pharmacies are experiencing problems with availability. One generic manufacturer is giving resolution window of June – September 2015. Branded manufacturer (Bayer) states available on proof of prescription	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect the supply problems. <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 advises unavailable until May 2015	Depending on indication alternative products should be used. Advice will be issued separately for patients prescribed the product for SIADH.
Oilatum <sup>®</sup> Shower Gel ( <b>Fragrance free only</b> )	Manufacturer expects availability mid June 2015	
Oilatum <sup>®</sup> Cream 150g Pack Size only	Manufacturer expects availability mid May 2015	500g pack sizes are available
Bisacodyl suppositories 10mg	Distribution is expected to begin early May 2015	Glycerol suppositories are a FV formulary alternative.
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. There is a small amount of Questran <sup>®</sup> Light (sugar-free version) available.	
Mefenamic acid 500mg tablets	One generic manufacture gives resolution date as end April 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 <sup>®</sup> 600mg tablets & generic Ibuprofen 600mg tablets	Branded manufacturer expected resolution date of mid April 2015. One generic manufacturer states supplies to resume mid June 2015.	Ensure prescribed by generic name. 400mg & 200mg tablets are available.
<b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b> Napratec <sup>®</sup> , NiQuitin <sup>®</sup> Lozenges supply issues continue. Caverject <sup>®</sup> (Alprostadil) Dual Chamber injection 10mcg/ml & 20mcg/ml – no resolution of supply until 2016 - alternative presentations available require patient education. Lomotil <sup>®</sup> expected to be available June 2016 – 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 -. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the <a href="#">Scottish Vaccine Update</a> .		

#### 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/>

## Resolved Supply Issues

Colestid <sup>®</sup> 5g granules for oral suspension (colestipol hydrochloride) / Colestid <sup>®</sup> 5g (Orange) granules for oral suspension – supply issue resolved
Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> (theophylline) tablets 175mg and 250mg – information from the company states that both products are now back in stock
Chlordiazepoxide - generic 5mg & 10mg capsules are now fully available, generic 5mg tablets are now fully available. To ensure a complete supply please prescribe as capsules
Gentisone <sup>®</sup> HC / Gentamicin+Hydrocortisone Ear Drops – supply issues now resolved
Diamox <sup>®</sup> SR (Acetazolamide) 250mg capsules – supply issues now resolved
Trimethoprim 100mg and 200mg tablets – now fully available
Bactroban <sup>®</sup> 2% (mupirocin) cream or ointment – supply issues now fully resolved
Dalacin T <sup>®</sup> (clindamycin) Solution – supply issues are now resolved
Generic Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules and Praxilene <sup>®</sup> are reported as being available by the manufacturers.
Generic Sertraline tablets are now available.
Haloperidol 500mcg capsules are available.

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Calmurid <sup>®</sup> HC (hydrocortisone/urea)	Calmurid <sup>®</sup> is still available and is on the FV formulary.
Dipentum <sup>®</sup> (olsalazine) 250mg capsules & 500mg tablets	Generic products are available. This product is not of FV formulary.

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