

Supply Issues Bulletin

April 2016 (Vol 4, 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 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
Caverject® 20mcg in 1 ml	Manufacturer states resolution by end April 2016.	Alternative presentations available will require patient education.
Univer® modified release (verapamil) 120mg & 240mg capsules	Manufacturer states no resolution until end 2016.	Specific advice will be issued in due course.
Disipal® (orphenadrine) 50mg tablets	Disipal® tablets were discontinued in 2015 however Teva intend to release a generic and expect availability to be around May 2016.	Some pharmacies may have residual stock. Check local availability. In the event that this is not available, current advice is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the on-going need for orphenadrine. If the plan is to discontinue this should be done in a slow and considered manner in order to avoid withdrawal symptoms The local mental health team advocates procyclidine as a suitable alternative Orphenadrine 50mg- 100mg up to three times daily (MAX 40mg DAILY) should be switched to procyclidine 5-10mg up to three times daily (MAX 30mg DAILY). The Mental Health Pharmacy Team can be contacted for advice on specific patients if need be (01324-566729).
Sno Tears® (polyvinyl alcohol 1.4%) eye drops	No date for resolution.	Carbomer '980' (polyacrylic acid 0.2%) is FV 1st line option for treatment of tear deficiency and ocular lubricant. Other formulary lubricants are also available.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Pioglitazone tablets	Pharmacies are reporting sporadic availability of all strengths.	Where pharmacies are unable to source pioglitazone, the following local advice has been issued previously. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Patients whose most recent HbA1c was outside target range should be reviewed for an alternative agent • If HbA1c has not deteriorated significantly (<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 • If HbA1c has deteriorated (> 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 FV formulary), in conjunction with the FV Diabetes Management Guidelines.
Synalar [®] 1 in 10 dilution Cream (Fluocinolone acetonide)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution.	If residual stocks are not available Hydrocortisone 1% cream would be an alternative mild potency steroid.
Megace [®] 160mg (megestrol) tablets	Manufacturer states that they expect availability mid April.	Unlicensed products are available in the short-term until licensed product becomes available. The local Specials process should be followed by Community Pharmacists.
Lacri-Lube [®] eye ointment	Manufacturer expects resolution April – May 2016.	A similar paraffin-based product is Xailin Night [®] 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.
Creon [®] 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 [®] 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 [®] (aciclovir) eye ointment	Manufacturer states resolution date of end May 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 [®] (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.
Nifedipine 5mg capsules	One generic manufacturer states no resolution date. Branded Adalat [®] remains available.	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).
Demeclocycline 150mg capsules	Manufacturer has resolution date as Q1 2016 – no clear information available at time of writing.	Depending on indication alternative products should be used. Advice will be issued separately for patients prescribed the product for SIADH.
Cholestagel [®] 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.
Pred-forte [®] (prednisolone acetate) 1% eye drops 5ml pack	5ml pack currently unavailable. Manufacturer states limited supply of 10ml pack, which is expected to be depleted soon. No replenishment date before end 2016.	Local Specialists suggest that Maxidex (Dexamethasone 0.1%) could be used rather than Prednisolone 0.5% while Pred Forte is not available for post-op patients and uveitis

Contact Information:

General Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Contact your Primary Care Pharmacist; or alternatively

Primary Care Prescribing Support Team on 01324-673611

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
Solpadol [®] Effervescent tablets (codeine 30mg / paracetamol 500mg)	Manufacturer expects supplies to resume end of April 2016.	Generic co-codamol effervescent tablets are fully available. Prescribe generically.
Zantac [®] 150mg & 300mg tablets Zantac [®] Syrup	Manufacturer has no date for resolution.	Generic ranitidine is available - prescribe by generic name .
Temazepam tablets	SDT price remains high (April 2016) for 28 tablets is £4.21 (10mg) and £4.21 (20mg).	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
Ongoing supply issues with: Napratec [®] , NiQuitin [®] Lozenges supply issues are expected to continue until July 2016. 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
Bumetanide 1mg tablets
Questran [®] powder for oral suspension 4g (colestyramine)
Proctosedyl [®] (cincochaine/hc) ointment
Trimovate [®] (clobetasone butyrate/nystatin/oxytetracycline)
Generic mefenamic acid 500mg tablets & 250mg capsules – prescribe by generic name. NB: NON-Formulary drug choice.
Brufen [®] 600mg tablets and generic 600mg tablets – prescribe by generic name.

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Florinef [®] (fludrocortisone) 100mcg tablets	Generic product available – please prescribe by generic name .
Voltarol [®] SR (diclofenac) 75mg tablets	Diclofenac is not a first-line NSAID. Consider other NSAIDs. Where diclofenac is required, prescribe by generic name as other MR products are available.
Tenormin [®] (atenolol) 25mg/5ml syrup	Generic atenolol 25mg/5ml oral solution SF is available – please prescribe by generic name .

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