

# Supply Issues Bulletin

May 2015 (Vol 3, No. 3)

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
Diclofenac sodium 25mg & 50mg tablets	Currently unavailable. One generic manufacturer gives a resolution date of end June 2015.	Naproxen and Ibuprofen are Forth Valley Formulary 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> line NSAIDs.
Chlorphenamine 2mg/5ml sugar-free oral solution.	Some pharmacies have reported problems obtaining generic product. One generic manufacturer states current supply problems with no date for resolution.	Some pharmacies may have stock. Branded Piriton <sup>®</sup> (sugar-containing product) is available. Cetirizine and loratadine are available as liquid formulations, depending on age of patient.
Zomorph <sup>®</sup> (morphine MR) 30mg capsules	Manufacturer gives resolution date of June 2015	30mg MR (twice daily) <b>tablets</b> are available. <b>NB</b> MXL 30mg capsules are a ONCE daily preparation.
Estring <sup>®</sup> 7.5mcg/24hr Vaginal Delivery System (estradiol)	Manufacturer states unavailable with no date for resolution	Other oestrogen products are available. Seek specialist advice where necessary.
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)
Gentamicin 0.3% eye drops	Generic manufacturer states resolution date of June 2015	

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Half Securon® 120mg (verapamil)	Manufacturer states that Half Securon® will be available from mid May 2015.	Some pharmacies may have residual stock – check with local pharmacies. The 240mg tablet is scored and can be halved in the meantime.
Ventmax® 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.
Betnovate®, Cutivate®, Dermovate®, Eumovate®, Trimovate®, 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® in all formulations is now fully available There is limited availability of Cutivate® and Trimovate®. Betnovate® and Eumovate® 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® equivalent) and a generic version of <b>clobetasone ointment</b> (Eumovate® ointment equivalent) are available. <b>Ensure generic prescribing.</b> Where a <b>cream</b> formulation is required, avoid using clobetasone during supply issues. <b>Trimovate® is NOT currently available</b> - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <b>formulary</b> where Trimovate® would have been selected. Cutivate® 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>
Zovirax® (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 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 mid- 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> (May 2015) for 28 tablets is £13.68 (10mg) and £13.70 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Nifedipine 5mg & 10mg capsules	Pharmacies are experiencing problems with availability. Some short-dated generic supplies are available. One generic manufacturer (Teva) advises resolution between June – September 2015. Branded manufacturer (Bayer) states available on proof of prescription	The Scottish Drug Tariff price reflects 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 July 2015	Depending on indication, alternative products should be used. Advice will be issued separately for patients prescribed the product for SIADH.
Oilatum® Cream 150g Pack Size only	Manufacturer expects availability end June 2015	500g pack sizes are available
Bisacodyl suppositories 10mg	Distribution is expected to begin early May 2015	Glycerol suppositories are a FV formulary alternative.
Questran® powder for oral suspension 4g (colestyramine)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution.	Questran® Light (sugar-free version) is available.
Mefenamic acid 500mg tablets and 250mg capsules	Pharmacies continue to experience problems. One generic manufacture gives resolution date as end July 2015 for 500mg tablets. Another generic manufacturer for 250mg capsules states long term unavailable with no date for resolution	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect the supply problems. 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 states limited stock available and will be supplied to wholesalers based on historic demand. 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®, NiQuitin® Lozenges supply issues continue. Caverject® (Alprostadil) Dual Chamber injection 10mcg/ml & 20mcg/ml – no resolution of supply until 2016 - alternative presentations available require patient education. Lomotil® expected to be available June 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 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.nett

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

## Resolved Supply Issues

Haloperidol 500mcg Tablets – haloperidol tablets are now available from all wholesalers

Lustral<sup>®</sup> is now back in stock – please continue to **prescribe by generic name**.

Oilatum<sup>®</sup> shower gel **fragrance free** – now available from wholesalers

Cholestagel<sup>®</sup> 625mg film coated tablets (colesevelam hydrochloride) – should be available from wholesalers. Pharmacies are advised to contact Alliance emergency hotline on 020304408930 if you experience any problems obtaining this product

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Rynacrom 4% nasal spray (sodium cromaglicate)	1 <sup>st</sup> line for allergic rhinitis in FV formulary is Beclometasone dipropionate nasal spray.
Ursogal <sup>®</sup> 150mg tablets & 250mg capsules (ursodeoxycholic acid)	Generics are available, ensure generic prescribing

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