

# Supply Issues Bulletin

June 2016 (Vol 4, 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.pjonline.com/discontinued\\_products](http://www.pjonline.com/discontinued_products)

## Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Trimovate <sup>®</sup> cream (clobetasone+nystatin+oxytetracycline) Eumovate <sup>®</sup> cream (clobetasone butyrate) Eurax <sup>®</sup> cream (crotamiton) Isotrex <sup>®</sup> gel (isotretinoin)	<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 stating full availability for Trimovate <sup>®</sup> cream however some Pharmacies reporting stock availability problems. Eumovate <sup>®</sup> cream is out of stock. 100g tube is expected to be available end of June 2016 30g by August 2016. Eurax <sup>®</sup> cream – no supply information available Isotrex <sup>®</sup> gel is expected to be available by the end of June 2016	Where Trimovate <sup>®</sup> is not currently available - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <a href="#">formulary</a> where Trimovate <sup>®</sup> would have been selected. Eumovate <sup>®</sup> ointment is fully available. Some pharmacies may have residual stock if cream is required. Calamine oily lotion is a temporary alternative to Eurax <sup>®</sup> cream Please refer to specialist prescriber for an alternative to Isotrex <sup>®</sup> gel
Caverject <sup>®</sup> 20mcg in 1 ml, 40mcg in 1ml and 10mcg in 1ml vials	Manufacturer states resolution by end June 2016.	Alternative presentations available will require patient education.
Sno Tears <sup>®</sup> (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.
Synalar <sup>®</sup> 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.
Zantac <sup>®</sup> 150mg & 300mg tablets	Manufacturer has no date for resolution.	Generic ranitidine is available - prescribe by <b>generic</b> name.
Zovirax <sup>®</sup> (aciclovir) eye ointment	Manufacturer states no date for resolution.	To be initiated on advice from secondary care. No generic available. Ganciclovir 0.15% ophthalmic gel is available where advised by Secondary Care.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
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)
Univer <sup>®</sup> modified release (verapamil) 120mg & 240mg capsules	Manufacturer states no resolution until end 2016.	For patients who require an alternative verapamil preparation due to product supply issues, local preference is that <b>standard-release generic tablets</b> are used, with the <b>total daily dose divided into three equal doses</b> eg. Univer 240mg ONCE daily transferred to Verapamil tabs 80mg, ONE tablet three times a day. Patients will require to be monitored, with the monitoring required being dependent on the indication (eg BP monitoring).  An alternative modified-release verapamil preparation is available (Securon SR 240mg tablets and Half-Securon 120mg tablets – once daily for Hypertension up to 240mg, twice daily above 240mg; twice daily for Angina). These preparations are not directly bioequivalent with Univer and monitoring will still be required as for the immediate release. While Securon tablets can be halved, Half-Securon <b>cannot</b> . Other modified-release tablets are available with similar dosage regimens to Securon – these may or may not be suitable to be halved.
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.
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).
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.
Pred-forte <sup>®</sup> (prednisolone acetate) 1% eye drops 5ml pack	5ml pack is currently available but expected to be depleted before replenishment date.. 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 and uveitis patients.
<b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b> Napratec <sup>®</sup> , NiQuitin <sup>®</sup> Lozenges supply issues are expected to continue until July 2016.. 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> .		

## Resolved Supply Issues

Pioglitazone tablets
Megace <sup>®</sup> 160mg (megestrol) tablets – Manufacturer for Megace <sup>®</sup> is stating full availability
Lacri-Lube <sup>®</sup> eye ointment
Demeclocycline 150mg capsules
Solpadol <sup>®</sup> Effervescent tablets (codeine 30mg / paracetamol 500mg)
Zantac <sup>®</sup> Syrup

### 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/>

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
<p>Disipal<sup>®</sup> (orphenadrine) 50mg tablets - Disipal<sup>®</sup> tablets were discontinued in 2015 - Teva had intended to release a generic but have taken the decision to discontinued the generic</p>	<p>Some pharmacies may have residual stock - check local availability. In the event that this is not available, current advice is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The local mental health team advocates procyclidine as a suitable alternative</li> <li>• Orphenadrine 50mg- 100mg up to three times daily (MAX 40mg DAILY) may be switched to procyclidine 5-10mg up to three times daily (MAX 30mg DAILY).</li> </ul> <p>The Mental Health Pharmacy Team can be contacted for advice on specific patients if needed (01324-566729).</p>
<p>Tylenol<sup>®</sup> effervescent tablets (co-codamol 30/500)</p>	<p>Generic preparations are available – prescribe generically. For patients who do not have any identified swallowing difficulties generic co-codamol 30/500 <b>capsules</b> are the most cost effective preparation. Where a dispersible formulation is required please prescribe co-codamol 30/500 dispersible tablets.</p>
<p>Seprin<sup>®</sup> (co-trimoxazole) all strengths and formulations have been discontinued:            Seprin<sup>®</sup> Forte 160mg/800mg            Seprin<sup>®</sup> Tablets 80mg/400mg            Seprin<sup>®</sup> Adult suspension 80mg/400mg            Seprin<sup>®</sup> Paediatric suspension 40mg/200mg</p>	<p>Generic preparations are available – prescribe generically.</p>
<p>Filnarine<sup>®</sup> SR (morphine modified release) – all strengths have been discontinued: 10mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg and 200mg</p>	<p>Branded preparation Morphgesic<sup>®</sup> SR is the most cost effective formulation.</p>

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