

# Supply Issues Bulletin

September 2015 (Vol 3, No. 4)

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
Caverject® (Alprostadil ) powder for reconstitution 40mcg vial	Manufacturer states resolution date as September 2015.	Alternative presentations available will require patient education NB Caverject® (Alprostadil ) Dual Chamber injection 10mcg/ml & 20mcg/ml supply issue has been resolved and are now fully available
Zantac® 150mg tablets	Manufacturer has no date for resolution	Generic ranitidine is available - prescribe by <b>generic</b> name
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)
Lustral® (sertraline) 100mg tablets	Branded Lustral® 100mg tablets are unavailable with a resolution date of November 2015	Generic sertraline is available – prescribe by <b>generic</b> name.
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 Secondary Care.
Antepsin® (Sulcralfate) 1G/5ml suspension & 1G tablets	No new patients should be initiated. Manufacturer expects resolution of UK licensed stock availability in Q1 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.

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	<p><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></p> <p>Pharmacies are reporting sporadic supply. Betnovate<sup>®</sup> ointment is now fully available. Dermovate<sup>®</sup> is available in some pack sizes. Betnovate<sup>®</sup> cream and Eumovate<sup>®</sup> have limited supply. Cutivate<sup>®</sup> and Trimovate<sup>®</sup> are out of stock. Trimovate<sup>®</sup> has a resolution date of Nov 2015 while some preparations of Cutivate<sup>®</sup> should be coming back on line at present with other preparations not being available until Jan 2016</p>	<p>Generic versions of <b>betamethasone, clobetasol</b> (Dermovate<sup>®</sup> equivalent) are available. <b>Ensure generic prescribing.</b> Where a <b>cream</b> formulation is required, avoid using clobetasone (Eumovate<sup>®</sup>) 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).</p> <p><b>Pharmacies are now reporting sporadic problems with some generic versions due to increased demand. Check current availability of particular products and pack sizes with local pharmacies.</b></p>
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. <b>SDT price remains high</b> (September 2015) for 28 tablets is £10.70 (10mg) and £10.64 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Nifedipine 5mg capsules	Pharmacies are experiencing problems with availability. One generic manufacturer states available but with short expiry. Reports are that branded Adalat <sup>®</sup> is available sporadically	<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 December 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 has no date for resolution	
Oilatum <sup>®</sup> Cream 150g Pack Size only	Manufacturer has no date for resolution	500g pack sizes are available
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).
Ponstan <sup>®</sup> (mefenamic acid 500mg tablets & 250mg capsules) and generic mefenamic acid 250mg capsules	Branded manufacturer states no supply of 500mg or 250mg – supply expected to resume by October 2015. One generic manufacturer for 250mg capsules states no date for resolution. <b>Generic 500mg tablets are available.</b>	Mefenamic acid is not on FV formulary. Formulary choices include ibuprofen and naproxen. The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased for the 500mg tablets however some pharmacies are reporting this strength is now available. <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.
Brufen <sup>®</sup> 600mg tablets -	Branded manufacturer expected resolution by the end of September 2015.	Generic tablets are available - <b>ensure prescribed by generic name.</b>
<p><b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b>            Napratec<sup>®</sup>, NiQuitin<sup>®</sup> Lozenges supply issues continue. 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>.</p>		

**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

Ferrous fumarate 210mg tablets – supply issue resolved
Gentamicin 0.3% eye drops – supply issue resolved
Half Securon <sup>®</sup> 120mg (verapamil) – now fully available
Caverject <sup>®</sup> (Alprostadil) Dual Chamber injection 10mcg/ml & 20mcg/ml – now fully available
Haloperidol 500mcg Tablets – supply issue now fully resolved
Bisacodyl suppositories 10mg – product now fully available.
Nifedipine 10mg capsules are now available again.
Ibuprofen 600mg tablets – Generic 600mg Ibuprofen are now available

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Ventmax <sup>®</sup> SR 4mg & 8mg capsules (salbutamol sulphate)	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
Co-danthramer (dantron/poloxamer 188 25mg/200 mg) and Strong Co-danthramer (dantron/ poloxamer 188 37.5mg/500 mg) capsules	Napp expects stocks of Co-danthramer capsules to last until the end of June 2015 and stocks of Strong Co-danthramer capsules to last until the end of December 2015. Alternative suspension formulations of Co-danthramer are available. NB Co-danthramer is formulary choice in terminal care only.
Novopen <sup>®</sup> 4	Replaced by the Novopen <sup>®</sup> 5 device
Rynacrom <sup>®</sup> Spray (sodium cromoglicate 4%)	Where steroid nasal sprays are considered a suitable alternative the Forth Valley formulary choices are Beclometasone Dipropionate 1 <sup>st</sup> line and Mometasone Furoate 2 <sup>nd</sup> line
Ursogal <sup>®</sup> 150mg tablets & 250mg capsules (ursodeoxycholic acid)	Generics are available – <b>prescribe by generic name</b>
Disipal <sup>®</sup> tablets (orphenadrine hydrochloride) 50mg	From 1 December 2015 because of manufacturing issues. Generic product is available - <b>prescribe by generic.</b>

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