

Supply Issues Bulletin

October 2015 (Vol 3, No. 5)

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.pjonline.com/discontinued_products

Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Lacri-Lube® eye ointment	Manufacturer states resolution date of supply January 2016	A similar paraffin-based product is Xailin Night® lubricating eye ointment. Other ocular lubricants are also available.
Caverject® (Alprostadil) powder for reconstitution 40mcg vial	Manufacturer states resolution date as mid November 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 generic 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)
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 end 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.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Trimovate®	<p>Full information for individual products can be found at http://hcp.gsk.co.uk/supply.html</p> <p>Pharmacies are reporting sporadic supply. All GSK products with the exception of Trimovate® are reported by GSK as available in either 100g or 30g pack sizes – pack sizes available can be checked at the above web link. Trimovate® remains out of stock and has a resolution date of end of January 2016</p>	<p>Ensure generic prescribing.</p> <p>Trimovate® is NOT currently available - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the formulary where Trimovate® would have been selected.</p>
Temazepam tablets	SDT price remains high (October 2015) for 28 tablets is £8.10 (10mg) and £8.34 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam.
Nifedipine 5mg capsules	Some supplies are beginning to become available. Full resolution may take several weeks.	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 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® Shower Gel (Fragrance free only)	Manufacturer states an expected resolution date of end November 2015	
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
Questran® powder for oral suspension 4g (colestyramine)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution.	Generic sugar-free colestyramine sachets are available, as is Questran® Light (sugar-free version).
Ponstan® (mefenamic acid 500mg tablets & 250mg capsules)	Branded manufacturer states no supply of 500mg or 250mg – supply expected to resume mid November 2015 and December 2015 respectively. Generic 500mg tablets are available.	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 pharmacies are reporting this strength is now available. Continue to prescribe by generic name. Some pharmacies may have residual stocks of the 250mg capsules. An alternative NSAID may need to be prescribed.
Brufen® 600mg tablets and generic 600mg tablets	Branded manufacturer expected resolution by the end of October 2015.	Generic tablets are available at other strengths - ensure prescribed by generic name. Prescribers are reminded that the lowest dose of NSAID should be used for the shortest time required.
<p>Ongoing supply issues with:</p> <p>Napratesc®, NiQuitin® Lozenges supply issues continue. Lomotil® expected to be available end of 2016 – see July 2014 bulletin for advice. Hyoscine hydrobromide - Kwells® (150mcg and 300mcg) are available. Joy-Rides® 150mcg are still unavailable but have a provisional resolution date of January 2016. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the Scottish Vaccine Update.</p>		

Resolved Supply Issues

Oilatum® Cream 150g - this pack size is now fully available

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Advantage Plus® Test Strips	Patients using Advantage Plus® Test Strips (also using Accu-Chek® Advantage meter) will need to be issued with a new testing meter and alternative testing strips – Forth Valley choice for Type 2 diabetics is TrueYou® meters and testing strips.
Voltarol® Dispersible (diclofenac sodium) 50mg tablets, Voltarol® Retard 100mg, Voltarol® SR 75mg tablets and Voltarol® Rapid (diclofenac potassium) 25mg	Generic alternatives are available please prescribe by generic name . For patients who require liquid/dispersible options, consider paracetamol soluble or if an NSAID is necessary FV formulary option would be Ibuprofen suspension
De-nolab® (tri-potassium di-citrate bismuthate) tablets are being discontinued from 31 December 2015	Not recommended for long-term use. Review patients with the aim of stopping. Where long-term treatment has been requested by Secondary Care, contact specialist for advice.

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/>