

Mental Health Medicines Bulletin

TO : ALL MEDICAL, NURSING AND PHARMACY STAFF including GPs and COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

FROM : Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Team

DATE: December 2019

SUBJECT: Stock shortages of Prazosin Tablets

Over recent months there have been ongoing stock issues with 0.5 mg and 1 mg Prazosin tablets (Hypovase®). These shortages are due to manufacturing problems with both strengths.

Recommendations

Prazosin is an alpha blocking drug which is licensed for use in hypertension, Raynauds Syndrome, benign prostatic hyperplasia and congestive heart failure (rarely used). In Psychiatry it is used 'off license' to treat nightmares and flashbacks associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

If supplies become low or unavailable the patient should be reviewed for ongoing sustained benefit from prazosin. There is no direct alternative product therefore advice is to gradually reduce the dose until the supply is exhausted. This will reduce the risk of a rapid rise in BP which may happen if stopped abruptly. If nightmares become problematic again then treatment may be re-titrated when supply resumes. Associated monitoring of blood pressure is recommended due to the risk of hypotension.

To ensure ongoing supply for individual patients during periods of limited stock community pharmacy are advised to manage their stock judiciously to help more patients to receive medication.

For further advice please contact the MH Pharmacy Team (01324 567616/566728/566729 or email FV-UHB.MHpharmacy@nhs.net)

For patient information leaflets on the use of Prazosin for symptoms of PTSD, see [Choice and Medication](#).