

# Supply Issues Information

Intermittent supply problems can occur due to either manufacturing issues causing shortages of branded products ('Manufacturer Cannot Supply', MCS) or supply issues affecting medicines, resulting in generics being difficult to obtain at Scottish Drug Tariff Part 7 (SDT) prices, or at all. Information on Part 7 generic medicines which are identified as being in short supply is available via the [Community Pharmacy Scotland Website](#) which indicates the [revised Part 7 prices for agreed shortages](#). Community Pharmacists are advised to report problems with obtaining Part 7 items at Tariff prices via the Community Pharmacy Scotland [Shortages Reporter](#)

The advice in this document 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.

This document is available via the NHS Forth Valley Intranet: <https://staffnet.fv.scot.nhs.uk/departments/pharmacy-2/area-wide/supply-issues-information/>

**Entries which have been updated from the previous version are marked as 'NEW' or 'UPDATED' in the 'Date Information Last Checked' column.**

The DHSC in England now have a live online [medicines supply tool](#) hosted on the Specialist Pharmacy Service website – registration requires an NHSmail email address. NB: the DHSC will reference NHS England Medicine Supply Notices (MSNs) rather than Scottish Government [Medicine Supply Alert Notices](#) (MSANs) which apply in Scotland).

A commercial Drug Shortages Tracker is also provided by MIMS to subscribers: <https://www.mims.co.uk/drug-shortages-live-tracker/article/1581516>

Supply issues are constantly in flux and your local Community Pharmacy will be able to give you up to date advice on availability.

This bulletin aims to give localised advice taking into account local formulary choices and considerations. **This bulletin should be checked first.** If no information is found in this bulletin, check the [DHSC/SPS medicines supply tool](#) for any information and advice and the [SG MSAN site](#) – this should be used in conjunction with the local NHS FV Formulary for local preferred choices.

**NB: where Parallel Imports are stated to be available, these are the preferred option as these are licensed products in the UK. Unlicensed imports are not recommended for routine use – Community Pharmacies will require authorisation via the Specials process for Unlicensed Imports.**

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**BNF Chapter 1 – Gastro-intestinal System**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Pancrease HL gastro-resistant capsules</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>  <b>Stock expected to be exhausted by mid-November 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribe an alternative high strength pancreatin preparation - <b>Creon 25 000 or Nutrizyme 22. (Nutrizyme 22 unavailable before late-Jan 24),</b></li> <li>The preparations differ slightly in the levels of enzymes (see BNF).</li> <li>Ensure patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients (Nutrizyme 22 contains castor oil which may cause stomach upset and diarrhoea).</li> <li>Prescribers may need to re-titrate the dose according to symptoms of maldigestion and malabsorption</li> <li>For more information see <a href="#">MSAN</a></li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol) Suspension Sugar-Free AND Chewable tablets Sugar Free</b>	<b>Unavailable before November 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider alternative options</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
<b>Dicycloverine 10mg/5ml oral solution</b>	<b>Unavailable until April 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply and patient has insufficient supplies to last until the re-supply date, prescriber should review if patient is able to swallow solid dosage forms and consider prescribing dicycloverine 10mg tablets if appropriate.</li> <li>For patients with swallowing difficulties consider if a liquid formulation of an alternative antispasmodic would be appropriate (e.g. Mebeverine 50mg/5ml sugar free oral suspension).</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Pro-Banthine (Propantheline) 15mg tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable until April 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy are unable to supply, consider prescribing an alternative oral antimuscarinic agent depending on indication for use. For further information see <a href="#">MSN</a></li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

## BNF Chapter 2 – Cardiovascular System

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Bumetanide 5mg tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable before May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bumetanide 1mg tablets are currently available.</li> <li>Consider using 1mg strength to make up the required dose.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Isotard 40XL tablets (Isosorbide mononitrate)</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply Isotard 40XL and patient has insufficient supply to last until resupply date, then consider prescribing as generic isosorbide mononitrate 40mg modified-release tablets.</li> <li>Patients should be advised that changing brands may increase the risk of adverse effects, particularly in the first few days e.g. hypotension, tachycardia, worsening headaches.</li> <li>Other strengths of Isotard XL remain available (50mg and 60mg tablets) which could be used as an alternative if specific brand needed. Note that Isotard 60XL can be halved to deliver a 30mg MR dose.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

## BNF Chapter 3 – Respiratory System

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Emerade 300micrograms/0.3ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection auto-injectors</b>  <b>AND</b>  <b>Emerade 500micrograms/0.5ml (1 in 1,000) solution for injection auto-injectors</b>	<b>All strengths unavailable until December 2024 at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For further info. see <a href="#">National Patient Safety Alert</a></li><li>• Suitable alternative is Jext 300mcg or Epipen 300mcg</li><li>• Prescribe alternative and ensure patient is aware how to administer new pen</li></ul>	New 19/01/2024

**BNF Chapter 4 – Central Nervous System**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	Unavailable until late February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply, consider alternative formulation. If patient has no swallowing difficulties, consider prescribing oral tablets.</li> <li>If the above is inappropriate, Diazepam tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water in patients unable to swallow tablets (off-label use).</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">MSN</a>.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024
Diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tube	Limited supplies until early March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy are unable to supply, consider prescribing <b>unlicensed</b> diazepam 5mg/2.5ml rectal solution tubes.</li> <li>If above option not appropriate, then contact specialist for advice.</li> </ul>	New 23/01/2024
Phenytoin Sodium 100mg capsules (Accord)	Out of stock until January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinicians should avoid starting any new patients on the <b>Accord</b> brand during supply issue.</li> <li>In the interim, prescribe <b>Phenytoin Sodium Flynn Pharma</b> 100mg hard capsules.</li> <li>As phenytoin is a category 1 anti-epileptic. <b>The brand of phenytoin to be dispensed should be specified on the prescription.</b></li> <li>Ensure patient seeks medical advice if they experience any adverse effects after switching e.g. seizures after switch.</li> <li>If the above is not suitable, please seek advice from specialist</li> </ul>	Updated 23/01/2024

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Midazolam (Epistatus®) 2.5mg/0.25ml oromucosal solution pre-filled oral syringes</b>	<b>Unavailable until March 2024 at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not initiate new patients on Epistatus® 2.5mg/0.25ml</li> <li>Consider prescribing midazolam (Buccolam®) 2.5mg/0.5ml oromucosal solution pre-filled oral syringes where appropriate, ensuring that the parent/carer is advised on the change in volume being administered, counselled on how to administer the dose, and shown the patient information leaflet</li> <li>If Buccolam is considered unsuitable then contact specialist for advice.</li> <li>See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
<b>Midazolam (Epistatus®) 10mg/1ml oromucosal solution pre-filled oral syringes</b>	<b>Unavailable until late January at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not initiate new patients on Epistatus® 10mg/1ml</li> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply, consider prescribing Buccolam® 10mg/2ml oromucosal solution pre-filled oral syringes where appropriate, ensuring that the parent/carer is advised on the change in volume being administered, counselled on how to administer the dose, and shown the patient information leaflet</li> <li>If Buccolam is considered unsuitable then contact specialist for advice.</li> <li>See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Xenidate® XL 18mg (methylphenidate) tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable with no confirmed resupply date</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that formulary choice is Xaggitin XL 18mg, however this is expected to be out of stock until at least February 2024.</li> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply Xaggitin or Xenidate brand, prescribe as generic methylphenidate XL 18mg tablets instead. Community pharmacy can then dispense whichever brand they are able to source.</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Xenidate® XL 27mg (methylphenidate) tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable with no confirmed resupply date</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply then prescribe as Xaggitin XL 27mg tablets (Formulary choice and same release profile)</li> <li>Ensure patient/carer is made aware of change of brand</li> <li>As agreed with CAMHS/Paediatrics all <b>new initiations</b> should be prescribed as the brand <b>Xaggitin</b></li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
<b>Xaggitin XL 18mg (methylphenidate) tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xenidate XL 18mg is also unavailable until further notice.</li> <li>If community Pharmacy unable to supply Xaggitin or Xenidate brand, prescribe as generic methylphenidate XL tablets 18mg instead.</li> <li>Community Pharmacy can then dispense whichever brand they are able to source.</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
<b>Xaggitin XL 36mg (methylphenidate) tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply Xaggitin. Prescribe as Xenidate XL 36mg instead.</li> <li>Xenidate XL is considered bio-equivalent to Xaggitin XL.</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
<b>Delmosart 18mg modified release tablets (methylphenidate)</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that formulary choice is Xaggitin XL 18mg, however this is expected to be out of stock until at least February 2024.</li> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply Delmosart brand, prescribe as generic methylphenidate XL tablets 18mg instead. Community Pharmacy can then dispense whichever brand they are able to source.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024



Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	
<b>Delmosart 36mg modified release tablets (methylphenidate)</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that formulary choice is Xaggitin XL 36mg, however this is expected to be out of stock until at least February 2024.</li> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply Delmosart brand, prescribe as Xenidate XL tablets 36mg instead.</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
<b>Concerta XL 27mg tablets (methylphenidate)</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribe as formulary choice Xaggitin XL 27mg tablets as more cost effective option and currently available.</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">Mental Health SBAR</a> for managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
<b>Equasym XL 10mg and 30mg (methylphenidate) capsules</b>	<b>10mg capsules unavailable until March 2024 at the earliest</b>  <b>30mg capsules unavailable until February 2024 at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Methylphenidate XL capsule formulations are not interchangeable</b></li> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply Equasym XL then contact specialist for advice on alternative.</li> <li>At present there are supply issues with various medications used in ADHD - see local <a href="#">SBAR</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
<b>Lisdexamfetamine (Elvanse)</b> <b>20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 70mg</b>  <b>Elvanse Adult 30mg, 50mg 70mg</b>	<b>Expected return dates:</b> <b>Elvanse 20mg, 50mg, 70mg, Adult 70mg – mid February</b> <b>Elvanse 30mg, Adult 50mg – mid March</b> <b>Elvanse 40mg – April</b> <b>Elvanse Adult 30mg – mid April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not initiate new patients on affected strengths of Elvanse capsules during this period until supply issues have resolved.</li> <li>Multiple strengths of lisdexamfetamine capsules are unavailable.</li> <li><b>Check with local community pharmacy to ascertain what stock is available.</b></li> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply prescribed lisdexamfetamine capsules then please refer to <a href="#">local guidance</a> on managing ADHD medication shortages.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches	Unavailable until at least January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not initiate any new patients on hyoscine hydrobromide (Scopoderm®) 1.5mg patches during this time.</li> <li>Where supplies are unavailable, consider switching patients to an appropriate alternative formulation/medication.</li> <li>See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for information on alternative options.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Fluoxetine (Olena) 20mg dispersible tablets	Unavailable until at least June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If patient can swallow capsules prescribe fluoxetine 20mg capsules</li> <li>If patient unable to swallow capsules prescribe fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Paracetamol suppositories (60mg, 125mg, 250mg)	Paracetamol 60mg suppositories unavailable until April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review patient to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy or whether alternative preparations of paracetamol (e.g., liquid) may be appropriate</li> <li>Where patients have insufficient supplies of paracetamol 60mg suppositories to last until the re-supply date, and liquid formulation is not suitable, consider prescribing paracetamol 120mg suppositories to be halved lengthwise (off-label use) to provide a 60mg dose, and ensure the carer is able to carry out this manipulation, writing the prescription to clearly emphasise only half of a 120mg suppository should be administered, with the carer counselled on dosing and administration.</li> <li>If above options are unsuitable then consider whether a dose change to 80mg is appropriate (indicated from 3 months upwards)</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
	Paracetamol 125mg suppositories are unavailable until June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review patient to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy or whether alternative preparations of paracetamol (e.g., liquid) may be appropriate</li> <li>Consider prescribing paracetamol 120mg suppositories in place of 125mg suppositories during this time, ensuring patient is counselled on the change of suppository strength</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dose difference between paracetamol 120mg and 125mg suppositories is negligible in context of the overall dosing schedule. The BNFC has no clinical or licensing concerns if switching between paracetamol 120mg and 125mg suppositories.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Paracetamol 250mg suppositories are unavailable until June 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review patient to determine if this is still the most suitable therapy or whether alternative preparations of paracetamol (e.g., liquid) may be appropriate</li> <li>Consider prescribing paracetamol 240mg suppositories in place of 250mg suppositories during this time, ensuring patient is counselled on the change of suppository strength</li> <li>The dose difference between paracetamol 240mg and 250mg suppositories is negligible in context of the overall dosing schedule. The BNFC has no clinical or licensing concerns if switching between paracetamol 240mg and 250mg suppositories.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
<b>Pethidine 50mg tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least April 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider alternative options</li> <li>If pethidine required, Community Pharmacy can source an unlicensed special</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Capsaicin 0.025% (Zacin) &amp; 0.075% (Axsain) cream</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least January 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to local and national treatment guidelines for choice of an alternative agent, taking into account treatments already tried, and reasons for being on a topical agent.</li> <li>For Axsain, if Community Pharmacy unable to supply, liaise with specialist to consider alternative options for neuropathic pain/neuralgia</li> <li>For Zacin, if Community Pharmacy unable to supply, consider alternative topical preparations e.g. topical NSAIDs for OA</li> <li>If other options considered unsuitable, then community pharmacy can source unlicensed capsaicin cream</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Varenicline (Champix®)	All strengths unavailable until further notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider <b>nicotine replacement therapy (NRT)</b> as an alternative.</li> <li>If NRT is not considered suitable, then consider if Bupropion (Zyban) is appropriate to support patients to stop smoking.</li> <li>If both NRT and Bupropion (Zyban) are considered unsuitable, then Community Pharmacy can supply unlicensed varenicline tablets.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
Levomepromazine 50mg tablets	Unavailable before late February 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply, prescribe <b>levomepromazine 25mg tablets</b> instead and adjust dose and quantity accordingly.</li> <li>Ensure patient is aware of change in strength and dosing instructions</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Tegretol Prolonged Release 400mg tablets	Unavailable before February 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Tegretol PR 200mg tablets are currently available.</b></li> <li>For patients taking Tegretol PR, if community pharmacy are unable to supply Tegretol PR 400mg tablets, discuss if they are able to supply Tegretol PR 200mg tablets, adjusting the dose accordingly.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024
Trihexyphenidyl 5mg/5ml oral solution	Unavailable before February 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy are unable to supply, consider if other licensed formulations would be suitable for the patient e.g. tablets. If liquid preparation needed, then community pharmacies may be able to source <b>unlicensed</b> oral suspensions.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

## BNF Chapter 5 – Infections

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml oral suspension	Limited supply until further notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy is unable to supply and oral suspension is required, consider prescribing the clarithromycin 250mg/5ml oral suspension instead, ensuring patient is counselled on the correct volume to be administered.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Cefalexin 250mg tablets	Unavailable until May 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider prescribing alternative formulation of cefalexin e.g. cefalexin 250mg capsules.</li> </ul>	Updated 25/01/2024
Co-trimoxazole 40mg/200mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free	Unavailable until at least February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-trimoxazole <b>80mg/400mg/5ml</b> oral suspension remains available but is only licensed for use in children aged &gt;12 to &lt;18 years and adults</li> <li>The use of Co-trimoxazole <b>80mg/400mg/5ml</b> oral suspension in a patient under 12 years would be considered "off label" use.</li> <li>For more information see <a href="#">MSN</a>.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
Rifampicin 150mg capsules	Unavailable until April 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy is unable to supply and patient has insufficient supplies to last until resupply date, consider prescribing Rifampicin 100mg/5ml oral suspension as this remains available.</li> <li>If this option is unsuitable for the patient, discuss with appropriate specialists to determine the most appropriate treatment during shortage.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Griseofulvin 125mg & 500mg tablets	<p>Griseofulvin 125mg tablets are unavailable until late January 2024</p> <p>Griseofulvin 500mg tablets are unavailable until April 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy is unable to supply, consider alternative oral antifungal treatments dependent on indication e.g. terbinafine, fluconazole or itraconazole.</li> <li>More information on alternatives can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024

Valganciclovir (Valcyte) 50mg/ml oral solution sugar free	Unavailable until March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply, consider prescribing <b>valganciclovir 450mg tablets</b>.</li> <li><b>Note</b> - The off-label crushing and dispersal of the tablets in water is not recommended as valganciclovir is teratogenic.</li> <li>If tablets are not appropriate, Community Pharmacy can supply unlicensed valganciclovir 250mg/5ml oral solution.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
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## BNF Chapter 6 – Endocrine System

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Strontium Ranelate 2g granule sachets sugar free	Unavailable until April 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where supply of strontium ranelate is not available, clinicians should:</li> <li>consider alternative treatments used in osteoporosis</li> <li>where alternative treatments used in osteoporosis have been tried and have failed/not appropriate, refer patients back to specialists for review</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
Injectable GLP-1 RAs licensed for use in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) – Semaglutide (Ozempic®), Dulaglutide (Trulicity®), Liraglutide (Victoza®), Exenatide (Byetta®, Bydureon®)	Supplies currently limited with expected intermittent supply issues up to January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplies of all <b>injectable</b> GLP-1 RAs licensed for use in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) are currently limited with expected intermittent supply issues up to January '25</li> <li>New patients should not be initiated on <b>injectable</b> formulations of GLP-1 RAs until full supplies are available again in January '25</li> </ul>	Amended 25/01/2024

<b>Lixisenatide (Lyxumia® ) 20micrograms/0.2ml solution for injection 3ml pre-filled disposable pens</b>	<b>Discontinued with stock expected to be exhausted by mid-December 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplies of all injectable GLP-1 RAs licensed for use in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) are currently limited with expected intermittent supply issues up to January '25</li> <li>New patients should not be initiated on injectable forms of GLP-1 RAs until full supplies are available again in January '25.</li> </ul>	Amended 25/01/2024
<b>Liraglutide (Saxenda®)</b>	<b>Intermittent supplies of Saxenda until July 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new patients should be initiated on Saxenda</li> <li>There are very limited, intermittent supplies of all glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs)</li> <li>Other GLP-1 RAs should <b>NOT</b> be used off-label</li> <li>Contact supervising weight management service for advice on weight management if supplies of Saxenda are unavailable</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
<b>Tresiba FlexTouch 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml pre- filled pens (Insulin degludec)</b>	<b>Unavailable until January 2025 at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an alternative prescribe Tresiba Penfill® (Insulin degludec) 100units/ml solution for injection 3ml cartridges. Taking into account the patient's manual dexterity and ability to use the new device correctly.</li> <li>Ensure patient is also prescribed the appropriate insulin delivery system and pen needles (if required)</li> <li>Ensure patient is counselled on the change in device, and provided with training on their use, including signposting to training videos, as well as potential need for closer monitoring of blood glucose levels.</li> <li>If cartridges considered unsuitable. Contact diabetes team for alternative options.</li> <li>For further information - see <a href="#">MSAN</a></li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
<b>Somatropin (Genotropin® MiniQuick) 600mcg and 1.4mg powder and solvent for solution for injection pre-filled</b>	<b>600mcg unavailable before mid-February 2024 1.4mg unavailable before March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply, contact patient's specialist clinician for advice on alternatives.</li> <li>See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024

disposable (single dose) devices AND Somatropin (Genotropin GoQuick) 5.3mg powder and solvent for solution for injection pre-filled, multi-dose pens.	Unavailable before April 2024		
Norditropin (somatropin) NordiFlex® 5mg/1.5ml, 10mg/1.5ml and 15mg/1.5ml solution	Unavailable with no current resupply date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Community Pharmacy are unable to supply, contact specialist for alternative options</li> <li>• Specialists are currently reviewing patients and switching to alternative brands/products</li> <li>• See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
FemSeven® Sequi Transdermal Patches	Unavailable before January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">HRT section</a> of Forth Valley Formulary for Formulary choices.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Estradiol valerate/medroxyprogesterone acetate (Indivina®) 1mg/5mg tablets	Unavailable before February 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During supply issue do not initiate new patients on Estradiol valerate/medroxyprogesterone acetate 1mg/5mg tablets.</li> <li>• If community pharmacy unable to supply, consider prescribing an alternative continuous combined HRT product containing estradiol 1mg but a different progestogen component to Indivina®</li> <li>• Alternative FV formulary choices are Femoston Conti (estradiol 1mg/ dydrogesterone 5mg) tablets or Kliovance (estradiol 1mg/ norethisterone 500mcg) tablets</li> <li>• See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024



Testosterone 50mg/5g transdermal gel unit dose tube (Testim)	Discontinued in late December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testosterone 50mg/5g transdermal gel (Testim) has been discontinued by the manufacturer.</li> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply, consider alternative testosterone preparation.</li> <li>Liaise with specialist for recommendation on alternative formulation and dosing instructions.</li> </ul>	New 23/01/2024
Prednisolone 5mg/5ml oral solution unit dose	Unavailable before mid-March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy are unable to supply, consider prescribing prednisolone soluble 5mg tablets, rounding to the nearest 5mg dose where appropriate.</li> <li>If this is not appropriate, community pharmacy can order an <b>unlicensed</b> Prednisolone 1mg/1ml oral suspension.</li> <li>If the above option is not appropriate, discuss treatment options with a specialist.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

**BNF Chapter 7 – Obstetrics, gynaecology and urinary tract disorders**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Microgynon® 30 ED tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable before mid-February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply consider alternative e.g. <b>Rigevidon</b> (Formulary choice), which is a 21 day pill. Ensure patient understands the difference between the ED regimen and the 21-day cycle regimen</li> <li>If the above option is unsuitable and it is considered necessary to prescribe an ED presentation. Consider Logynon ED (see BNF /SPC for differences in formulation)</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Oxybutynin 5mg modified-release tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable until at least April 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply, consider alternative Forth Valley formulary choice antimuscarinics if appropriate for the patient. Formulary choices are Solifenacin (1st Line) or Tolterodine (2nd line).</li> <li>If the above is not appropriate, consider immediate release oxybutynin formulations at the same total daily dose, but administered in divided doses. Dose re-titration may be needed, based on symptoms and tolerability.</li> </ul>	New 23/01/2024
<b>Estradiol (Estring) 7.5micrograms/24hours vaginal delivery system</b>	<b>Unavailable until February 2024 then intermittent availability until November 2024.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy are unable to supply, consider prescribing an alternative estradiol or estriol vaginal product.</li> <li>See FV Formulary/BNF for alternative options.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

**BNF Chapter 8 – Immune system and malignant disease**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Olatuton (Octreotide 10mg, 20mg and 30mg powder and solvent for suspension for injection vials)	Unavailable until at least July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact specialist for advice on appropriate alternative options.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024

**BNF Chapter 9 – Blood and Nutrition**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Sando-K effervescent tablets	Unavailable until late February 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If community pharmacy unable to supply, consider prescribing an alternative.</li> <li>If the patient has no swallowing difficulties, consider prescribing potassium chloride 600mg modified release tablets. Make sure the patient is counselled on the change of medication and dose instructions.</li> <li>If the above is unsuitable, seek further advice from a specialist.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024
Phosphate Sandoz effervescent tablets	Unavailable until April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Community Pharmacy unable to supply, seek further advice on treatment options from specialist.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

**BNF Chapter 10 – Musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Triamcinolone hexacetonide 20mg/1ml suspension for injection ampoules	Unavailable with no current resupply date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If suitable, consider alternative steroid injection e.g. triamcinolone acetonide</li></ul>	Updated 19/01/2024

## BNF Chapter 11 – Eye

Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the UK Ophthalmic Pharmacy Group maintain a [shortages page](#).  
Additional local advice is included below

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Azithromycin (Azyter) 15mg/g eye drops (0.25g unit dose preservative free)</b>	<b>Unavailable before early February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Community Pharmacy is unable to supply, consider alternative treatment options</li> <li>• For the <b>treatment of purulent bacterial conjunctivitis or blepharitis</b>, prescribers should consider an alternative antibiotic. (See FV Formulary/BNF).</li> <li>• For the <b>treatment of trachomatous conjunctivitis</b>, if there are no suitable alternative treatment options, Community Pharmacy can source unlicensed imports of azithromycin 15mg/g eye drops P/F (unit dose). If the above option is not suitable, refer to genito-urinary medicine specialist for advice on alternative treatment.</li> <li>• For further information see <a href="#">MSAN</a></li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Acetazolamide (Diamox SR) 250mg modified- release capsules</b>	<b>Unavailable until late February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If community pharmacy is unable to supply and patient has insufficient supplies to last until resupply date, clinicians should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ prescribing acetazolamide immediate release 250mg tablets and monitoring patients after the switch;</li> <li>◦ Acetazolamide (Diamox SR) 250mg modified-release capsules twice daily could possibly be switched to acetazolamide 250mg tablets four times daily.</li> <li>◦ If acetazolamide immediate release 250mg tablets are not appropriate, community pharmacy can supply unlicensed acetazolamide SR 250mg capsules</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024

**BNF Chapter 12 – Ear, Nose and Oropharynx**

Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
<b>Glandosane saliva spray (natural, lemon, and peppermint)</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All formulations of Glandosane saliva spray are unavailable due to long term supply issues.</li> <li>Consider an alternative saliva replacement product suitable for the specific indication and that meets ACBS criteria for prescribing</li> <li>If further assistance required then contact the relevant specialist for further advice</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
<b>Hydrocortisone 2.5mg muco-adhesive buccal tablets</b>	<b>Unavailable before June 2024 at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the severity of the patient's ulcers including frequency and interference with daily activities</li> <li>Consider if over-the-counter products such as topical anaesthetics, topical analgesics/anti-inflammatory agents, and topical antimicrobial agents marketed as oral gels, mouthwashes and oral sprays have already been tried/appropriate to use or retry</li> <li>If above mentioned treatments are not suitable, consider prescribing betamethasone soluble tablets for off-label topical use as a mouthwash (see BNF), counselling patients on how to administer treatment, and stressing that the mouthwash must not be swallowed</li> <li>If neither of the above options are appropriate, prescribers should seek specialist advice from the oral medicine clinic</li> <li>For further information see <a href="#">MSAN</a></li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
<b>Fluticasone 400microgram/unit dose nasal drops</b>	<b>Limited supply until at least February 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flixonase nasal drops have also been discontinued with stock expected to be exhausted by end of December 2023.</li> <li>If community pharmacy are unable to supply Fluticasone nasal drops, consider prescribing an alternative steroid nasal product e.g Betamethasone 0.1% nose drops or Mometasone 50micrograms/dose nasal spray.</li> </ul>	New 19/01/2024

## BNF Chapter 13 – Skin



Product	Current Supply Problem / Date of Resolution	Impact and Advice	Date Information Last Checked
Permethrin 5% cream	Limited supply until March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with local pharmacies and prescribe permethrin 5% cream if pharmacy able to source stock.</li> <li>• <b>Malathion liquid (Derbac-M) is now back in stock and is available for the treatment of scabies.</b></li> <li>• If community pharmacy unable to source permethrin cream, and malathion liquid is considered unsuitable, community pharmacies can source unlicensed permethrin 5% cream.</li> <li>• Further alternative options for scabies include unlicensed benzyl benzoate 25% topical emulsion or unlicensed ivermectin 3mg tablets.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">MSAN</a> for more information.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Zyclara (Imiquimod) 3.75% cream 250mg sachets	Unavailable until late January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please contact specialist for advice on alternative treatment options.</li> </ul>	Updated 19/01/2024
Hydrocortisone 0.5% cream	Unavailable until February 2024 at the earliest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Community Pharmacy unable to supply the 0.5% cream formulation, consider prescribing the 1% strength of hydrocortisone cream or hydrocortisone 0.5% ointment (ointment significantly more expensive option)</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% cream and ointment	Currently out of stock until mid-February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If community pharmacy is unable to supply, consider prescribing mometasone furoate 0.1% cream or ointment.</li> <li>• Both betamethasone valerate 0.1% and mometasone furoate 0.1% are potent topical corticosteroids.</li> </ul>	Checked 19/01/2024

<b>Dermacort (hydrocortisone) 0.1% cream</b>	<b>Currently out of stock until February 2024 at the earliest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Dermacort <b>SmPC</b> states that clinical studies have confirmed that 0.1% Dermacort is equivalent to 1.0% hydrocortisone cream BP/BPC.</li><li>• Both 0.1% and 1.0% hydrocortisone are classed as mildly potent topical corticosteroids.</li><li>• If community pharmacy is unable to supply, consider prescribing Hydrocortisone 1.0% cream as an alternative.</li></ul>	Checked 19/01/2024
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## BNF Chapter 14 – Immunological products and vaccines

Information on any issues relating to vaccines is available at: <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/publications/scottish-vaccine-update/>

## BNF Chapter 15 – Anaesthesia

## Other