

## **Supply issues update for primary care March 2018**

### **New issues**

#### **Xylocaine 10% spray:**

- Aspen who are the sole supplier of this product are currently out of stock due to capacity issues at their manufacturing site, they have advised there is now very limited supplies left at wholesalers.
- Aspen are expecting further stock to be available towards the end of March, and then a further delivery to arrive in the middle of April.
- In the interim period, UKMI have published the attached guidance, which can be found on the following link: [www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-xylocaine-lidocaine-10-mg-spray/](http://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-xylocaine-lidocaine-10-mg-spray/)
- This advises that:
  - Existing stock should be prioritised for use in areas most in need of this product and that usage should be rationalised where possible
  - An unlicensed import (Astra Zeneca product) is available from Europe but there is a 7 to 10 day lead time. Please contact the specialist importer companies directly.
  - There is another licensed lidocaine spray, which contains a lower strength (5%) in combination with phenylephrine hydrochloride 0.5% w/v, available from Martindale that may be appropriate for some indications. Martindale are aware of the Xylocaine 10% spray supply issues and can support additional demand.

#### **EpiPen 0.3mg (Senior) Auto-injectors:**

- Due to manufacturing delays Mylan are reporting intermittent supply constraints of EpiPen® 0.3mg (Senior) Adrenaline Auto-Injector in the UK.
- To assist in the stock management of EpiPen® 0.3mg (Senior), Mylan are allocating stock on a prescription-only basis and pharmacies will be able to place orders for up to a maximum of two EpiPen® 0.3mg (Senior) Auto-Injectors per prescription.

#### **Hypovase (Prazocin)**

- Pfizer are out of stock of Hypovase 0.5mg until 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018
- Pfizer continue to have stock of Hypovase 1mg tablets

#### **Adalat Retard 10mg modified release tablets:**

- Due to manufacturing difficulties, Bayer are out of stock until mid-April 2018
- A Bayer communication letter has been issued (see attached)
- A number of alternative Nifedipine MR 10mg preparations remain available including Adipine MR 10mg tablets, Tensipine MR 10mg tablets and Caroten MR 10mg capsules.



Adalat  
communicationv- Bayr

#### **Lacri lube eye ointment:**

- Allergan are out of stock with no resupply date due to a manufacturing issue.
- The Royal College of Ophthalmology is aware of the issue and is recommending Xailin Night Ointment: [www.rcophth.ac.uk/standards-publications-research/quality-and-safety/medicines-safety/drugs-shortages/](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/standards-publications-research/quality-and-safety/medicines-safety/drugs-shortages/)
- We are in discussion with the manufacturer of Xailin, Nicox, about their supply position.

### **Ongoing**

#### **Menadiol tablets:**

- Alliance, the sole supplier is out of stock from mid-January until approximately October 2018.

- They are now supplying an unlicensed special which is the same formulation as the licensed product. Please find attached information sheet which was drawn up about the special product. This product is available to order from Alcura



- Other specialist importers are also able to source unlicensed supplies.
- UKMI have drafted a shortages memo, which will provide advice on alternatives, this is available on the SPS website:  
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-menadiol-diphosphate-tablets-10mg/>
- Please do pass on information about this shortage to relevant clinical specialities including paediatrics.

#### **Bactroban nasal ointment:**

- GSK have a manufacturing issue and are out of stock.
- GSK are expecting new stock to be available during the w/c 19<sup>th</sup> March, but supplies may be limited until a further delivery is made available at the end of May.
- The overall supply issue should be fully resolved at the end of May.
- UKMI have published a shortages memo, which provides advice on clinical alternatives. This is available at the following link:  
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-bactroban-mupirocin-nasal-ointment/>
- We have been in discussion with the suppliers of the alternatives, who are aware of GSK's issues and are working with their supply chains to bring in additional stock:
  - Naseptin Nasal Cream- Alliance Pharmaceuticals available via the wholesalers: AAH, Alliance Healthcare and Well Pharmacy
  - ProntoDerm – B.Braun have advised that supplies currently available, with further deliveries expected
  - Octensian Nasal gel – Schülke & Mayr UK Ltd - currently have stock and are expecting another delivery in March and a further one in April.

#### **Hydrocortisone sodium phosphate 100mg injection:**

- Concordia are out of stock of hydrocortisone sodium phosphate injection 100mg/ml (formerly marketed as Efcortisol) due to an API issue. They are expecting further supplies in Spring 2018.
- Solu-Cortef (hydrocortisone sodium succinate) 100mg, manufactured by Pfizer, is considered an acceptable alternative during this time. Solu-Cortef is currently available and we have made Pfizer aware of the supply issues with Concordia's hydrocortisone injection.
- There are differences in the formulation and administration between these two products, the following guidance provides further information about the administration of Solu-Cortef:  
[www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-hydrocortisone-100-mgml-or-500mg5ml-injection/](http://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-hydrocortisone-100-mgml-or-500mg5ml-injection/)
- Additional information on the use of Solu-Cortef injection can also be found on these sites:
  - Injection video demonstrating the preparation technique for Solu-Cortef with a standard syringe: [www.addisons.org.uk/videos/view-10-34-solu-cortef-standard-syringe-emergency-injection/](http://www.addisons.org.uk/videos/view-10-34-solu-cortef-standard-syringe-emergency-injection/)
  - Solu-Cortef with a safety syringe: [www.addisons.org.uk/videos/view-9-33-solu-cortef-safety-syringe-emergency-injection/](http://www.addisons.org.uk/videos/view-9-33-solu-cortef-safety-syringe-emergency-injection/)
  - The AD SHG photo instructions for preparing Solu-Cortef with a safety needle: [www.addisons.org.uk/articles.html/articles-for/emergencies/how-to-give-an-emergency-injection-r33/?pagecommentundefined=3](http://www.addisons.org.uk/articles.html/articles-for/emergencies/how-to-give-an-emergency-injection-r33/?pagecommentundefined=3)

#### **Acetazolamide MR:**

- Diamox MR – Concordia have advised resupply not due until Q2 (April-June 2018)
- Eytazox\_Cap 250mg M/R- Teva have advised resupply not due until late March 2018
- Immediate release acetazolamide 250mg tablets are available from both Teva and Concordia

**Venlafaxine 37.5mg and 75mg tablets:**

- There have been recent generic supply issues with venlafaxine 37.5mg and 75mg immediate release tablets
- Stocks of both strengths are currently available from wholesalers
- Further supplies have recently been released and more is expected in April.

**Trimovate cream:**

- Product has recently divested from GSK to Ennogen, but Ennogen will not be in stock until late in 2018
- Ennogen have now imported in Trimovate cream as an unlicensed product and are now distributing this product
- A copy of the communication letter with ordering details is attached.



Letter to Pharmacists  
Prof Groups RE Trimovate

**Mianserin 10mg tablets:**

- Mylan the sole supplier of Mianserin 10mg tablets are currently out of stock. Estimated resupply date is w/c 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- Mylan continue to have good supplies of Mianserin 30mg tablets

**Lacidipine 2mg and 4mg:**

- Due to a combination of manufacturing and regulatory issues, there are currently some generic supply issues with this product
- Teva are back in stock of both strengths of generic lacidipine (2mg and 4mg)
- GSK have good supplies of the brand, Motens in both 2mg and 4mg strength

**Glipizide 5mg tablets:**

- There are two licensed UK suppliers of this product, Mylan and Pfizer.
- Mylan have experienced manufacturing issues of the generic glipizide and are currently out of stock, they are expecting further supplies in March 2018.
- Pfizer, who supply the brand Minodiab, have supplies available.

**Tranexamic acid 500mg tablets:**

- Ongoing supply issues due to difficulty in obtaining raw material.
- Currently Teva and Tillomed have supplies available of generic
- Mylan have supplies of the brand Cyklokapron
- Supplies are therefore available but may be limited.
- UKMI have provided the following shortage memo which advises on alternatives
- [www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-tranexamic-acid-tablets-500mg-all-brands/](http://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-tranexamic-acid-tablets-500mg-all-brands/)

**Trifluoperazine tablets:**

- There have been ongoing supply issues affecting trifluoperazine 1mg and 5mg tablets
- Supplies will not improve until some point in 2019 due to manufacturing issues with the active ingredient, therefore long term issues affecting the tablets.
- Concordia and Rosemont have trifluoperazine available in liquid formulations and they have good supplies available.
- We are also aware that unlicensed supplies of both the 1mg and 5mg tablet are available from both Ennogen and a number of specialist importer companies. Under the medicines legislation, doctors can prescribe unlicensed products for their patients if they think it appropriate, but do so entirely on their own responsibility. Pharmacies can obtain unlicensed supplies via these specialist companies or Ennogen.

### **Zaditen 300ml (1.38mg in 5 ml oral solution)**

- CD Pharma currently out of stock of Zaditen oral solution 300ml (no date available for resupply)
- In the interim, they can provide an alternative 100 ml packs for Zaditen Syrup (Origin Polish market), which is now available at our Alloga
- THE MHRA has approved a variation for CD Pharma to supply this product, so it is considered licensed
- Please find attached the information letter for further info.
- Zaditen 1mg tablets are not affected by this issue and remain readily available



Final letter to  
distributors for Zadite

## **Eye drops/ treatments:**

### **Novartis**

- **Iopidine (apraclonidine) 5mg/ml eye drops x 5ml.** – new supplies released recently
- **Maxidex (dexamethasone) 0.1% eye drops x 5ml.** There is limited stock available but the company is chasing for a new delivery.
- **Icaps (lutein & zeaxanthin) tablets x 30.** There is limited stock available, the company is chasing for delivery.
- **Azarga (brinzolamide & timolol) eye drops x 5ml.** There have been recent shortages due to a significant increase demand; the company is responding to the increase and is waiting for the next batch to be released from QA.
- **Simbrinza (brinzolamide & brimonidine) eye drops x 5ml.** There is limited stock available but the company is chasing for a new delivery.
- **Duotrav (timolol & travoprost) eye drops x 2.5ml.** There is limited stock available but the company is chasing for a new delivery.

### **Allergan**

- **Carmellose 1% eye drops x 30 unit dose.** There is a current shortage with the 30 unit dose which is expected to be resolved by mid-March. In the meantime, there is a good supply of the 60-unit dose pack.
- **Lacri lube eye ointment-** see new at start of update

### **RPH Pharmaceuticals AB - Betnesol Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g**

- RPH Pharmaceuticals AB (marketing authorisation holder) who distribute the product through Focus Pharmaceuticals have advised about the discontinuation of Betnesol Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g towards the end of March
- RPH Pharmaceuticals will be launching Betamethasone Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g and are currently expecting stock in mid-May.

## **Vaccines:**

**For updates on vaccine supply positions, please refer to PHE's Vaccine Update Bulletin:**

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update#2018](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update#2018)

### **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV23):**

- MSD are the sole UK supplier of this vaccine and limited supplies are currently available
- Further supplies are expected in late March
- Supply may be intermittent throughout 2018
- PHE have previously issued guidance to GP's (see attached document) on how to manage patients if unable to obtain PPV vaccine.



PPV vaccine  
shortage PHE letter to

- Updates on recommendations are now available in February edition of PHE's Vaccine Update Bulletin (Page 7)



Vaccine update...

#### **Menveo (meningitis A,C,W,Y):**

- GSK are out of stock of Menveo until at least summer 2018 (date has not yet been confirmed)
- Pfizer have confirmed they are in stock of Nimenrix and currently able to support increased demand

#### **Hepatitis B Vaccines**

- PHE previously developed temporary recommendations on hepatitis B vaccine including risk-based prioritisation of vaccine, dose-sparing and deferral of boosters
- Supply of Hepatitis B vaccines has improved, however will remain constrained and controlled stock management and ordering restrictions will continue to allow for the backlog of patients/staff who had vaccination deferred last year and because manufacturers have not got their usual full UK allocation
- However, a recovery plan for 2018 was published by PHE on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and vaccine ordering will be opened out in a phased approach over 2018 to lower priority group (4) patients, from March. Priority group 1-3 patients/staff will continue to have access to vaccine.
- Information on the temporary recommendations and recovery plan can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hepatitis-b-vaccine-recommendations-during-supply-constraints>
- PHE have issued a letter to GPs (see attached document) outlining the implication for GPs



gp hepB vaccine  
recovery plan signed

- PHE have also issued a letter to NHS and non-NHS occupational health service providers (see attached document) outlining the implication for OH



OH letter recovery  
plan 2018 signed

- A mechanism remains in place for both suppliers to allow for exceptional orders if there is an urgent and immediate need.

## **Resolved**

#### **Serenace (haloperidol) 500mcg capsules:-**

Teva are now back in stock of Serenace

#### **Rifampicin tablets:**

Sanofi are back in stock of both Rifadin 150mg and 300mg capsules.

### **Buscopan (hyoscine butylbromide) injection**

- Sanofi have returned to stock.

### **Bicalutamide tablets**

- Teva, the main generic supplier, remain out of stock which is continuing to have a knock on effect on the remaining suppliers who are struggling to maintain demand.
- However, good supplies of both strengths have recently been released into wholesalers and should now be available to order.

## **Discontinuations**

### **Typhoid vaccine:**

- GSK has been out of stock of Typherix (Typhoid) Hepatyrix (combined Hepatitis A and Typhoid vaccine) since May 2017. They have now issued a public statement to confirm they will be discontinuing both vaccines globally.
- Sanofi Pasteur: Typhim is available to order without restrictions.
- PaxVax: Vivotif is available .

### **Cardene SR (nicardipine) (Astellas):**

- Cardene SR is being discontinued in January 2018. Nicardipine immediate release remains available & a number of other therapeutic alternatives.

### **Isotrex (isotretinoin) gel (GSK):**

- GSK discontinued Isotrex gel in February 2017 but have informed us that it is now out of stock. Alternate products remain available.

### **Izinova (sodium sulfate, anhydrous, magnesium sulfate heptahydrate & potassium sulfate) concentrate for oral solution (Ipsen):**

- Izinova is being discontinued at the end December 2017 due to problems with a third-party manufacturer. Therapeutic alternatives remain available.

### **Daklinza (daclatasvir) 90mg tablets (BMS):**

- BMS is discontinuing Daklinza (daclatasvir) 90mg tablets from the EU market in December 2017 as part of a portfolio rationalisation process. The company has confirmed that the 30mg & 60mg presentations will remain available. Daklinza is indicated for the treatment of chronic HepatitisC and the recommended dose is 60mg (alternate dosage regimens can be managed by the remaining strengths).

### **Fosamax (alendronic acid) 10mg tablets (MSD):**

- MSD plans to discontinue Fosamax (alendronic acid) 10mg tablets with immediate effect from the UK market as part of a portfolio rationalisation process. Fosamax Once Weekly and generic alendronic acid 10mg tablets remain available.

### **Nizatidine 150mg capsules (Flynn):**

- Flynn plans to discontinue Nizatidine 150mg capsules with immediate effect from the UK market. Generic Nizatidine 150mg capsules remain available from other suppliers.

### **Chlordiazepoxide tablets:**

- Dr Reddy's, the sole supplier of chlordiazepoxide tablets has discontinued this product in both the 5mg and 10mg strengths.
- Supplies of generic chlordiazepoxide capsules in 5mg and 10mg strengths are available from Crescent, Athlone and Kent. Supplies of the brand Librium are also available from Mylan.