

Supply issues update for primary care August 2018 (w/c 20 August)

This report has been produced by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Medicine Supply team, for the PRESCQIPP network to provide an update on current primary care medicine supplies issues that we are working on. Please share with all relevant colleagues and networks in primary care.

New issues

Promazine - New

Teva, who are the sole supplier, has advised that this is currently out of stock and are expecting stock to return:

- 25mg due back end of September and 50mg due back mid-October 2018
- As the 50mg is not due back until October, this will increase demand for the 25mg so supplies for the 25mg may become restricted when they do return back into stock.
- DHSC has been working with Teva to try and make supplies available as soon as possible.
- Rosemont have advised that the oral liquid preparation remains available in both 25mg/5ml and 50mg/5ml.

Adalat (Nifedipine) all products - New

- Bayer, the supplier of Adalat which is a range of Nifedipine oral preparations, is due to be out of stock of several of the Adalat (Nifedipine) range, details of the specific preparations are in the attached document.
- The official communication including other preparations of Adalat (Nifedipine) that remain available to order as well as contact details for healthcare professionals to obtain further advice and support is in the attached



Adalat DoH
communication v4.5.1

- The supplies of other Nifedipine capsules and tablets remain available currently, including;
 - Adipine (Chiesi)
 - Coracten (UCB)
 - Nifedipress (Dexcel)
 - Tensipine (Genus)

UKMI have issued a shortages memo, which will provide advice on alternatives, this is available on the [SPS website](#)

Alvesco (Ciclesonide) - New

- AstraZeneca have alerted us to a supply issue with Alvesco (Ciclesonide) inhalers across all strengths
- Resupply is anticipated mid-September for the Alvesco 160 and mid-October for Alvesco 80
- AstraZeneca have issued a communication letter to customers. Please see attached.



FINAL Dear HCP
letter - Alvesco supply

Promethazine - New

- There have been recent supply issues with Phenergan (Promethazine) 25mg tablets from Sanofi and there is currently no stock available at present and no dates have been advised as to when they will be back in stock.
- Phenergan (Promethazine) 10mg tablets and Phenergan(Promethazine) oral liquid remain available to order
- Avomine (Promethazine) 25mg tablets remain available from Manx Healthcare via wholesalers - please liaise with your local wholesaler depot for supplies.

Ongoing issues

Imigran (sumatriptan) injection - Ongoing

- Manufacturing issue affecting supplies of GSK's branded sumatriptan injection, Imigran.
- Supplies of both Imigran injection initiation packs and refill packs have now been exhausted
- Resupply is not expected until Q1 2019 (January-March 2019)
- Generic supplies of sumatriptan injection in both initiation and refill packs are available from Sun Pharma/Ranbaxy – (this product is 'sumatriptan 6 mg/0.5 ml solution for injection')
- Sun Pharma/Ranbaxy have confirmed that they are able to support the additional demand during this time.

Diamorphine 5mg and 10mg Injection – Supply issues ongoing

Accord: still out of stock of diamorphine 5/10mg injection but new stock of both strengths will be available mid-September. Further deliveries scheduled for both strengths in September, October and coming months.

Wockhardt: still have supplies available, but as previously advised they cannot support the full demand for primary and secondary care.

- Primary care and drug misuse centres can continue to order diamorphine in line with historical demand.
- Secondary care will have access to restricted supplies of diamorphine

Recommended Local Action- Primary care and drug misuse centres

- Although you will be able to access diamorphine as per historical demand, we would encourage prescribers to be aware of the supply issues and reduce prescribing where appropriate
- Please order responsibly during this time, in line with historical demand and do not stock pile to avoid lengthening the stock out period.
- If diamorphine cannot be accessed, please refer to the [clinical guidance by UKMI](#) which provides more information on suggested alternatives - first-choice being morphine. If you require clinical guidance locally please liaise with secondary care prescribing partners in substance misuse services or pain specialist services
- Further information include the [Patient Safety Alert on high dose morphine and diamorphine](#)

Distribution Arrangements

- Diamorphine 5/10mg will only be available to order from Alliance. No minimum surcharges will be levied
- Morphine 10mg injection (Martindale) available to order from AAH only.
- Diamorphine 30mg injection (Wockhardt), diamorphine 100mg (Accord) and diamorphine 500mg (Accord and Wockhardt) – usual wholesalers.

Diazepam 5mg/ml Emulsion for injection (Diazemuls) - ongoing

- Accord, the sole supplier of diazepam emulsion for injection, has informed us that, due to an issue with the raw material, they will be out of stock of this product until Late-August 2018.
- UKMI have prepared the following advice on alternatives, which can be found [here](#)
- This suggests the following products as possible alternatives:
 - Ativan (lorazepam 4mg/ml) – Supplies currently restricted and unable to support any additional demand
 - Buccolam (Midazolam buccal)- Shire are in stock of all strengths
 - Diazepam rectal tubes – Wockhardt have the 2.5mg available via wholesale routes, Desitin have stock of both the 5mg and 10mg.

Colestyramine (Questran) - ongoing

- Teva have discontinued their product colestyramine 4g oral suspension powder sachets
- BMS are currently the sole supplier of colestyramine.
- Due to recent manufacturing issues, BMS are out of stock of Questran Powder for Oral suspension 4g. Supplies are now expected towards the end of August.
- Questran Light is now back in stock and have advised that good supplies are available
- Due to recent issues with Questran/Questran Light, UKMi have prepared a [memo](#) to advise on alternatives
- We have also made importers aware of the issue and they have confirmed that supplies can be sourced from abroad although lead time will vary.

Epipen – ongoing

- Due to manufacturing delays from Mylan's contract manufacturer, Meridian Medical Technologies, a Pfizer company, there are intermittent supply constraints of EpiPen® 0.3mg Adrenaline Auto-Injector in the UK.
- This issue is now also affecting EpiPen® Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injector in the UK
- Alliance Healthcare will manage the stock of EpiPen® 0.3mg and EpiPen® Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injector from Pfizer and they will be working with pharmacies to fulfil prescriptions.
- To further assist in the stock management of EpiPen® 0.3mg and EpiPen® Jr 0.15mg, pharmacies are allocated stock on a prescription-only basis and can place orders for up to a maximum of two EpiPen® 0.3mg Auto-Injectors per prescription.
- Mylan have shared a statement, which is available on their website www.epipen.co.uk.

- Mylan is working closely with Pfizer to manage supply carefully to avoid long-term supply shortages. Pfizer anticipates that production rates will increase over the coming months; however, at this time, cannot commit to a specific time for when the supply constraint will be fully resolved.
- There are two alternative adrenaline auto-injector products available in the UK, Emerade and Jext.
- Currently supplies are available in various strengths of both of these alternative devices.
- We are in contact with the manufacturers of these alternative devices to keep them updated on the situation. They both have additional deliveries of adult and paediatric presentations arriving over the coming weeks and are working to expedite future deliveries and bring additional stock to the UK where possible.

Lofexidine – ongoing

- Britannia are no longer supplying Britlofex (lofexidine) tablets due to manufacturing problems.
- Britannia is the sole supplier of this product to the UK.
- Britannia does not yet know the resupply date for the next delivery of Britlofex tablets, but the out of stock period is likely to last several months. This is due to the transfer of the product to a new manufacturer. We have been in discussion with the specialist importer companies and they have been unable to source supplies from abroad, as this product is not used in many other countries.
- UKMI have prepared the following shortages memo, which has now been published on the [SPS website](#)



Britlofex Temporary
Discontinuation Notifi

Menadiol tablets – ongoing

- 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. The attached information sheet has been drawn up about the special product, which can be ordered from Alcura



Menadiol
Diphosphate Informa

- Other specialist importers are also able to source unlicensed supplies.
- UKMI have drafted a shortages memo, which provides advice on alternatives, available on the [SPS website](#)
- Please do pass on information about this shortage to relevant clinical specialities including paediatrics.

Acetazolamide MR - ongoing

- Diamox MR – Concordia have advised resupply not due until late September 2018.
- Eytazox_Cap 250mg M/R- Teva have advised that supplies are now available.
- Immediate release acetazolamide 250mg tablets are available from both Teva and Concordia.

Trimovate cream - ongoing

- Product has recently divested from GSK to Ennogen, but Ennogen will not be in stock until January 2019.
- Ennogen have imported 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 Trim

Trifluoperazine tablets - ongoing

- 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 have good supplies
- We are also aware that unlicensed supplies of both the 1mg and 5mg tablet are available from 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)- ongoing

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



Final letter to
distributors for Zadite

Eye drops/ treatments:

Allergan – Lacri-lube supplies- out of stock for the rest of the year due to a manufacturing issue.

- Royal College of Ophthalmology is aware of the lacri-lube shortage and is recommending Xailin Night Ointment, more information [here](#).

Bausch & Lomb –

- **Minims Pilocarpine 2%** stock will be released into the market end of August
- **Prednisolone and Phenylephrine 2.5%** transient back orders but there is still stock in wholesale which should cover the market for a few weeks

Novartis – Azopt 5ml eye drops – currently out of stock due to PI shortage and delay at plant, there is likely to be intermittent shortages over the next few months.

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 will discontinue Betnesol Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g towards the end of March
- RPH Pharmaceuticals will be launching a generic Betamethasone Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g and are currently expecting stock early September.

Resolved

Priadel oral solution (Lithium Citrate oral solution 520mg in 5ml)- Sanofi have advised they are now back in stock

Diazepam Rectal tubes - Wockhardt, the sole supplier of diazepam 2.5mg are back in stock with wholesalers

Phenobarbital injection – Martindale are the sole supplier of phenobarbital injection and they have returned to stock of the 30mg, 60mg and 200mg presentations.

Venlafaxine 37.5mg and 75mg tablets- good supplies are now available

Lacidipine 2mg and 4mg- good supplies of generic Lacidipine and branded Motens are available

Tranexamic Acid 500mg tablets- good supplies of generic tranexamic acid tablets are back in stock

Vaccines:

For updates on other vaccine supply position, please refer to PHE's Vaccine Update Bulletin available [here](#)

- Supplies of GSK vaccines have improved.
- MSD allocations remain set as they are.
- A mechanism is in places to allow for exceptional orders if there is an urgent and immediate need.
- PHE previously developed temporary recommendations on hepatitis B vaccine including risk-based prioritisation of vaccine, dose-sparing and deferral of boosters
- Although supply of Hepatitis B vaccines has improved, 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
- A recovery plan for 2018 was published by PHE on 26th February 2018 and vaccine ordering was 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](#)

- PHE have issued a letter to NHS and non-NHS occupational health service providers outlining the



implication

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV23):

- MSD are the sole UK supplier of this vaccine and are currently out of stock
- Further supplies are expected in mid-late September and supply may be intermittent throughout 2018
- PHE have previously issued guidance to GPs on how to manage patients if unable to obtain PPV vaccine.



PPV vaccine
shortage PHE letter to

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

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

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

Discontinuations

Hypurin Bovine insulin (Wockhardt) - Bovine Isophane Vial x 10ml will deplete in July 2018. This is a significant withdrawal for the market as it means Bovine Isophane insulin will no longer be available in any form. Information can be found on the [Wockhardt website](#)

Duavive (conjugated oestrogens & bazedoxifene) (Pfizer) - Being discontinued in December 2019 due to commercial reasons

Asacol (mesalazine) 250mg & 500mg suppositories (Allergan) - Discontinued with immediate effect stocks now exhausted. Alternatives available from other suppliers.

Magnesium hydroxide mixture (Artyon Saunders) - discontinued in Sept 2018 available from alternate suppliers.

Persantin & Persantin Retard (Boehringer Ingelheim) - discontinued with stock expected to last 3-4 weeks due to an increase in demand.

Daklinza 30/60mg tablets (BMS) - discontinued in Sept due to changes in prescribing over to newer treatments.

Torbay discontinuations - the following unlicensed special products will be discontinued

Product	Alternative supplier	Expiry date of current batch
Acetic Acid 3%	Tayside, Preston & Huddersfield	Out of stock
Cocaine Hydrochloride 4%w/v p/f eye drops 4ml sol	Huddersfield 2ml	available until 30/09/2018
Glucose 30% Oral Solution	Other preparations available	Out of stock
Mannitol 20% in 100ml	Licensed Baxter Healthcare Ltd 500ml	Out of stock
Papaverine Solution for Injection 80mg in 2mL	Huddersfield 1ml	Out of stock
Povidone Iodine 5%w/v Cutaneous Solution	Huddersfield 30 & 100ml	available until 31/08/2018
Zinc Sulfate 57.5 mcg in 10ml	Contract manufacture not purchased	available until 31/05/2018