

## Supply issues update for primary care October/November 2018

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

### Information provided w/c 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

#### New issues

##### Epanutin (phenytoin) 30mg/5ml oral suspension

- Pfizer, the sole supplier of Epanutin are experiencing global manufacturing delays with this product and have issued a DHCP letter (attached) on this issue.



Letter of temporary cessation of Epanut

- Epanutin is classified as a class 1 antiepileptic which means that patients should remain on the same manufacturers product.
- Therefore, any changes to a patient's usual brand must be carefully managed and increased monitoring of patients may be required.
- We have issued guidance with input from neurology and patient safety experts via the MHRA's Central Alerting System (CAS). [The CAS alert](#) provides guidance to HCPs on the supply issue and on switching patients to alternative phenytoin products and monitoring them during this time if required.
- Unlicensed phenytoin suspensions are available from specialist manufacturers and from abroad via specialist importers. Strengths and exact formulations may differ, pharmacists are advised to contact manufacturers/importers directly for further information. A list of some specials manufacturers can be found [here](#).
- Pfizer have also been able to secure supplies of a Canadian phenytoin suspension (Dilantin-30), this will be unlicensed in the UK, and supplies are very limited. There are also alternative formulations of phenytoin available including tablets, capsules and injections.

##### Epilim 250mg Chronosphere

- Sanofi have recently experienced some supply issues with Epilim 500mg Chronospheres and as a result an increase in the use of 250mg has resulted in no stock being available until the end of November 2018.
- Sanofi have also issued a DHCP letter to explain the current situation, see attached;



2018 10 24 FINAL  
DHPC Epilim-chrono

- Supplies of other Epilim formulations, particularly Epilim Liquid and Epilim Syrup, remain available as an alternative, and sodium valproate preparations are also available from other manufacturers (see table)
- Sanofi have advised that supplies of Epilim Chronosphere 100mg/50mg are only available to meet normal market demand, as such patients should not be switched to these strengths as this may precipitate a shortage of this presentation
- If an immediate-release formulation (including the liquid or syrup) is substituted, this will need to be given in divided doses, at a minimum twice daily, as opposed to Chronosphere formulations, which may be used once daily (refer to the DHCP letter for further details).

| Product description                 | Pack Size | Availability |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Epilim 200mg/5ml Liquid             | 1 (300ml) | In stock     |
| Epilim Syrup                        | 1 (300ml) | In stock     |
| Epilim 200 Gastro-resistant Tablets | 100       | In stock     |

|  |     |          |
|--|-----|----------|
| Epilim 500 Gastro-resistant Tablets                                  | 100 | In stock |
| Epilim Chrono 200 Controlled Release                                 | 100 | In stock |
| Epilim Chrono 300 Controlled Release                                 | 100 | In stock |
| Epilim Chrono 500 Controlled Release                                 | 100 | In stock |
| Epilim Chronosphere MR 50mg Modified Release Granules                | 30  | In stock |
| Epilim Chronosphere MR 100mg Modified Release Granules               | 30  | In stock |
| Epilim Chronosphere MR 500mg Modified Release Granules               | 30  | In stock |
| Epilim Chronosphere MR 750mg Modified Release Granules               | 30  | In stock |
| Epilim Chronosphere MR 1000mg Modified Release Granules              | 30  | In stock |
| Epilim 100mg Crushable Tablets                                       | 100 | In stock |
| Epilim 400 mg Powder and Solvent for solution for injection/infusion | 1   | In stock |

### Furosemide 40mg tablets

- We are aware some generic suppliers have recently experienced manufacturing issues which has resulted in some short term supply issues
- Supplies are now improving and stock is available, please see table below:

| Manufacturer | Stock Availability (packs of 28)   |
|--------------|--|
| Accord       | In stock - Stock is currently available to order                         |
| Bristol Labs | Out of stock - Stock available to order from <b>mid-November</b>         |
| M & A        | Out of stock - Stock available to order from <b>mid to late November</b> |
| Crescent     | In stock - Stock is currently available to order                         |
| Sigma        | In stock - Stock is currently available to order                         |

### Fragmin (dalteparin) 2,500units/ 5,000units and 7,500units– Pfizer.

- Pfizer are anticipating the following out of stock periods with Fragmin (dalteparin injection)
- 2,500units presentation** - out of stock with a resupply date of w/c 12 November
- 5,000 units presentation** – likely to go out of stock during w/c 31 Oct with a resupply date of w/c 12 Nov
- 7,500units presentation** - out of stock with a resupply date of w/c 12 November
- Detailed below is a list of the suppliers of other LMWH, who can support over October and November. They are ranked with the supplier with greatest capacity sited at the top.
- Previous guidance about low molecular weight heparin is available on the [SPS website](#)

|   |  | Brand                  | Company      |
|---|--|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Supplier with the most stock available | Inhixa (Enoxaparin)    | Techdow      |
| 2 | Stock available                        | Arovi (Enoxaparin)     | Rovi Biotech |
| 3 | Very limited capacity                  | Arixtra (Fondaparinux) | Aspen        |
| 4 | No capacity                            | Innohep (Tinzaparin)   | Leo          |
| 5 | No capacity                            | Clexane (Enoxaparin)   | Sanofi       |

### **Stemetil (prochlorperazine) 5mg in 5ml oral syrup.**

- Sanofi have informed DHSC that there is very limited stock available of Stemetil oral syrup,
- Stocks are likely to last until appx late November 2018 with next delivery not due until the middle of 2019.
- Other presentations of Prochlorperazine which will continue to remain available are;
  - Buccal (maleate) 3mg
  - Injection (mesylate) 12.5mg
  - Tablets (maleate) 5mg
- UKMI have prepared the following shortages memo, which provides potential advice on management options, this has now been published on the [SPS website](#)

### **Salofalk (mesalazine) 500mg suppositories – Dr. Falk Pharma**

- DHSC have been informed by Dr. Falk Pharma of a short-term supply issue with Salofalk 500mg suppositories.
- Supplies are currently limited and there is likely to be a 2-week gap in supply until the next delivery of stock in late November.
- A very small amount of stock will be reserved for emergency orders
- Salofalk 1g suppositories will remain available.

### **Ongoing issues**

#### **Sinemet (co-careldopa) tablets**

- Ongoing issues with the supply of Sinemet from MSD- please see attached company letter
- The latest update we have on the current supply position is:
  - **Sinemet 12.5mg/50mg** - Stock may be limited until further deliveries arrive in November
  - **Sinemet Plus 25mg/100mg** – product currently in stock, further deliveries are expected end of October/early November
  - **Sinemet 25mg/250mg** - MSD are currently out of stock, further deliveries are expected in November
  - All other Sinemet preparations are unaffected
- DHSC has been working with generic suppliers on this issue and can confirm generic co-careldopa supplies in all the above strengths will be available to support the intermittent supply constraints
- DHSC are continuing to work with MSD and generic manufacturers to manage the overall supply position over the coming months and will provide an update when more information is available
- MSD have provided information to Parkinson's UK which can accessed on [their website](#)



MSD HCP letter.pdf

#### **Ativan (lorazepam) injection:**

- Pfizer, the sole supplier of this product is currently out of stock, further supplies are currently expected w/c 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- To help manage the supply issues, UKMI have prepared the advice on alternatives, which can be found [here](#)
- Supply information about all of the suggested alternatives can be found in the following table:



Ativan alternativ

- We are aware that a number of specialist importer companies have been able to source supplies from abroad, although lead times will vary. If pharmacies are requiring unlicensed stock, they should place orders with the unlicensed companies as soon as possible due to the longer lead times for this stock
- As there is no further licensed stock available from Pfizer until early November, please review UKMI memo and make local decisions about clinical substitutes and please share information about this supply issue and alternative option with clinicians.

### Tambocor (flecainide) 200mg modified release tablets:

- Teva are experiencing a supply issue affecting Tambocor (flecainide) 200mg modified release tablets due to a recent change in ownership that has resulted in a disruption to supply.
- Generic presentations of Flecainide 50mg and 100mg immediate release tablets remain available.
- Resupply for Tambocor (flecainide) 200mg modified release tablets is anticipated in 2019.

### EpiPen and EpiPen Junior:

- There have been ongoing supply issues affecting EpiPen, supplied by Mylan for several months. The issue is due to manufacturing delays from Mylan's contract manufacturer, Meridian Medical Technologies, a Pfizer company in the US. Stabilising supply is taking longer than anticipated and is affecting countries globally.
- Initially the delays affected the 0.3mg preparation of EpiPen, however these have recently been extended to the EpiPen Junior 0.15mg device.
- In the UK there are two alternative adrenaline auto-injector devices available, Emerade, supplied by Bausch & Lomb and Jext, supplied by ALK. Both companies manufacture adult and paediatric presentations of adrenaline auto-injectors, and both are aware of the supply disruptions affecting EpiPen and EpiPen Junior and have been working with their supply chains to increase supplies to the UK for the remainder of 2018.
- Overall supply update below for all presentations.
- On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Sep, DHSC issued a supply disruption alert about EpiPen and EpiPen Junior and an update to the original alert was provided on 15<sup>th</sup> October which included a letter to parents/guardians, most recent alert and letter attached.



### 0.3mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

- Currently supplies are available of EpiPen 0.3mg via a stock management process. 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.
- Supplies of Emerade and Jext are currently available, and further supplies are scheduled for November and December.
- Emerade also supply a 0.5mg adrenaline auto-injector which is also currently available.
- Mylan have received approval from the MHRA to extend the use of specific batch numbers of EpiPen 0.3mg auto-injectors, beyond the labelled expiry date by four months. Further information can be found [here](#)
- ALK, the manufacturers of Jext, have recently obtained acceptance from the MHRA to extend the use of specific lot numbers of both the adult and paediatric device. Further information regarding these batches is contained in the letter below.



FINAL and PI -  
124-uk-form-annex4-l

### 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

- Stock of EpiPen Junior is now available and can be obtained via a prescription management protocol.
- Supplies of both Jext and Emerade 0.15mg adrenaline auto-injectors are also currently available via a prescription management protocol.
- The supply situation for EpiPen Juniors is expected to improve by the end of the year and therefore the situation is likely to remain constrained until this time.
- ALK, the manufacturers of Jext, have recently obtained acceptance from the MHRA to extend the use of specific lot numbers of both the adult and paediatric device (see letter attached above for further information)

## Clomipramine

- Teva and Mylan are the only UK suppliers and are experiencing ongoing supply problems due to API issues
- 10mg capsules – Teva and Mylan both have stock available
- 25mg capsules – both out of stock, Mylan have advised resupply is due early November and Teva have advised a resupply is due mid-November
- 50mg capsules – Mylan have limited stock available via wholesalers and Teva have advised resupply is due mid-November.

## Promazine tablets

- Teva are the sole supplier and are experiencing ongoing supply issues.
- Currently the 50mg tablet is out of stock with further supplies due November 2018.
- Supplies of 25mg tablet remain.
- Rosemont have advised that the oral liquid preparation remains available in both 25mg/5ml and 50mg/5ml.

## Adalat (Nifedipine) all products: New letter from Bayer attached

- There continues to be a temporary interruption to the supply of some Adalat presentations, with Bayer UK intending to re-supply the market at a later date that previously advised.
- There will be some out of stock periods for some preparations and long-term discontinuations- specific details in the updates communication letter attached below.
- This communication also and lists the other preparations of Adalat (nifedipine) that remain available to order as well as contact details for healthcare professionals to obtain further advice and support.



Adalat DoH  
communication Oct

- 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 provides advice on alternatives, available on the [SPS website](#)
- Please do pass on information about this shortage to relevant clinical specialities.

## Imigran (sumatriptan) injection:

- Ongoing issues with GSK's branded sumatriptan injection, Imigran.
- Supplies of both Imigran injection initiation packs and Imigran injection refill packs have 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.

## Lofexidine tablets:

- 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 about this 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:

- Alliance, the sole supplier, is out of stock until approximately mid November 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



Menadiol  
Diphosphate Informa

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

### Acetazolamide MR:

- Diamox MR – Concordia have advised resupply not due until Q4 (late December 2018).
- Eytazox Capsules 250mg M/R - Teva have advised that supplies are available.
- Immediate release acetazolamide 250mg tablets are available from both Teva and Concordia.

### Trimovate cream:

- The product was 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:

- 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 there are long term issues affecting the tablets.
- Concordia and Rosemont have trifluoperazine as a liquid formulations and good supplies are available.
- We are also aware that unlicensed supplies of 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 (ketotifen) 300ml (1.38mg in 5 ml oral solution):

- CD Pharma are currently out of stock of Zaditen oral solution 300ml (no date available for resupply).
- In the interim, they can provide alternative 100 ml packs for Zaditen Syrup (Origin Polish market), which is now available at Alloga.
- The MHRA has approved a variation for CD Pharma to supply this product, so it is considered licensed.
- The UK stock will be available once all Polish stock has been exhausted, expected to be early to mid-2019.
- 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:

### 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 – read more [here](#).

### 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 a generic Betamethasone Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g and are currently expecting stock in November 2018.

## Resolved

- **Zemplar (paricalcitol) 2mcg capsules**
- **Diazepam 5mg/ml Emulsion for injection (Diazemuls)**
- **Lotemax**
- **Atropine Minims**
- **Iopodine ED Solution 5mg/ml 5ml (1x1)**

## Vaccines:

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

### Hepatitis B Vaccines

- MSD have recently informed us that their supplies of the adult vaccine, HBVAXPRO 10mcg vaccine will go out of stock imminently. Resupply is not expected until mid-2020
- We have been working with GSK who have reassured us they are confident they can support the increased demand during this time.
- GSK have good supplies of all hepatitis B vaccine- (see email attachment for full list of current availability)
- MSD allocations for HBVAXPRO 40mcg (renal) and HBVAXPRO 5mcg (paediatric) remain set as they are.
- Although controlled stock management will continue, customers should be able to access supplies as per historical requirements.
- A mechanism remains in place for both suppliers 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
- A recovery plan for 2018 was published by PHE on 26<sup>th</sup> 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 [here](#)
- PHE have issued a letter to NHS and non-NHS occupational health service providers (see attached document) outlining the implication for OH



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

- MSD are the sole UK supplier of this vaccine and currently have limited supplies available
- Further supplies are expected in December 2018
- 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 t

- Updates on recommendations are 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 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**

#### **Almogran (almotriptan) 6-tablet pack (Almirall)**

- Being discontinued in December 2018, however, the 3-tablet pack will remain available.

#### **Noristerat (norethisterone) 200mg injection (Bayer)**

- Being discontinued with immediate effect with stock expected to last until Jan/Feb 2019.

#### **Pro-Viron (mesterolone) tablets (Bayer)**

- Being discontinued with immediate effect.

#### **Dolmatil (sulpiride) 200mg & 400mg tablets (Sanofi)**

- Being discontinued with immediate effect, suppliers are expected to be depleted in October. However, generic sulpiride tablets remain available from other manufacturers.

#### **Hypurin Bovine insulin (Wockhardt): Update**

- The latest information about the discontinuation of bovine insulin can be found on the [Wockhardt website](#)

#### **Duavive (conjugated oestrogens & bazedoxifene) (Pfizer)**

- Being discontinued in December 2019 due to commercial reasons