

# Supply Issues Bulletin

Jan-Feb 2015 (Vol 3, No. 1)

Please Circulate to All Staff

A regular update bulletin which informs and advises GP Practices on the latest medicine supply problems and product discontinuations, with additional local advice on suggested actions or alternatives.

The information is collated from a range of sources.

Information on **product discontinuations** is collated using information received from manufacturers, and also online resources<sup>1</sup>.

**Intermittent supply problems** can occur due to either manufacturing issues causing shortages of **branded** products ('Manufacturer Cannot Supply', **MCS**) or supply issues affecting **generic** medicines, resulting in generics being difficult to obtain at Scottish Drug Tariff Part 7 (SDT) prices, or at all ('**Short Supply**', **SHS**).

Information on Part 7 generic medicines which are identified as being in short supply is published on a monthly basis in the form of SDT Part 13 and is updated throughout the month by ISD (<http://tinyurl.com/ScotDT>). Information is also available via the Community Pharmacy Scotland Website (<http://tinyurl.com/CPS-ShortagesInfo>). Inclusion in Part 13 allows Community Pharmacists to be reimbursed appropriately if higher costs are incurred in obtaining those Part 7 generics listed.

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

The advice in this bulletin 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.

Refs: 1. [http://www.pionline.com/discontinued\\_products](http://www.pionline.com/discontinued_products)

## Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Betnovate <sup>®</sup> , Cutivate <sup>®</sup> , Dermovate <sup>®</sup> , Eumovate <sup>®</sup> , Trimovate <sup>®</sup> , and other GSK dermatology products	<p><b>Full information for individual products can be found at <a href="http://hcp.gsk.co.uk/supply.html">http://hcp.gsk.co.uk/supply.html</a></b></p> <p>Be aware that there can be delays between product being made available by the manufacturer and subsequent availability to pharmacies via wholesalers for supply against prescriptions.</p>	<p>Generic versions of <b>betamethasone</b>, <b>clobetasol</b> (Dermovate<sup>®</sup> equivalent) and a generic version of <b>clobetasone ointment</b> (Eumovate<sup>®</sup> ointment equivalent) are available. <b>Ensure generic prescribing.</b> Where a <b>cream</b> formulation is required, avoid using clobetasone during supply issues. <b>Trimovate<sup>®</sup> is NOT currently available</b> - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the <b>formulary</b> where Trimovate<sup>®</sup> would have been selected. Cutivate<sup>®</sup> formulary alternative is <b>generic</b> betamethasone 0.1% (cream or oint), (Information adapted from Lothian Medicines Management Team). <b>Pharmacies are now reporting sporadic problems with some generic versions due to increased demand.</b></p>
Gentisone <sup>®</sup> HC / Gentamicin+Hydrocortisone Ear Drops	Branded product discontinued. Generic product not expected to be available until April 2015	Where product cannot be sourced alternative combination products are available. Betnesol N <sup>®</sup> is an alternative formulary option.
Gentamicin 0.3% eye drops	Generic manufacturer states resolution date of March 2015	
Sertraline 50mg tablets & branded Lustral <sup>®</sup> 50mg tablets	Some pharmacies are reporting supply issues. One generic manufacturer states expected resolution by mid February 2015. Lustral <sup>®</sup> resolution not expect until mid April 2015	Some pharmacies may have residual stock – check with local pharmacies. Where product is unavailable citalopram is a possible alternative <b>unless</b> the patient has a cardiac history or is on other medication which prolongs the QTc interval, in which case fluoxetine is preferable. Contact the Mental Health Pharmacy team for specific advice: 01324-566728.

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Haloperidol 500mcg capsules	One generic manufacturer states product is available, although some pharmacies are still reporting problems obtaining stock. Stock issues may continue while wholesaler stocks are replenished.	Check availability with local pharmacies. Where unavailable, it is recommended in the interim, that prescriptions should be supplied for haloperidol <b>5mg/5ml</b> oral solution - a dose of 500 micrograms would be equivalent to 0.5ml There are two strengths of haloperidol oral solution available - 5mg/5ml and 10mg/5ml (Haldol <sup>®</sup> ) Use of the higher strength preparation would involve measuring a volume of 0.25ml for a 500 microgram dose which would be difficult to achieve (Information courtesy of NHS A&A).
Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> (theophylline) tablets 175mg and 250mg	Nuelin SA <sup>®</sup> 250mg has a resolution date of the end of Feb 2015. 175mg <sup>®</sup> has no date for resolution	Some pharmacies may have stock. Uniphyllin Continus <sup>®</sup> is on the FV formulary but different products are not interchangeable, due to different rates of release and absorption. Where Nuelin <sup>®</sup> is unavailable, local advice is to switch to Uniphyllin <sup>®</sup> Continus and check theophylline levels one week after the switch.
Zovirax <sup>®</sup> (aciclovir) eye ointment	Limited stock is available with full resolution expected end of February 2015	To be initiated on advice from secondary care. No generic available. Ganciclovir 0.15% ophthalmic gel is available where advised by advised by Secondary Care.
Antepsin <sup>®</sup> (Sulcralfate) 1G/5ml suspension & 1G tablets	No new patients should be initiated. Manufacturer expects resolution of UK licensed stock availability in Q1 of 2015.	Imported product (unlicensed in the UK) is available from IDIS. Pharmacies have been advised that this is available via the local unlicensed Specials process as an interim measure whilst the UK product is unavailable. PSD will also accept endorsements during this time. Pharmacies have been advised to return to using the UK licensed product once it becomes available again.
Naftidrofuryl 100mg capsules )	<b>Branded Praxilene<sup>®</sup> is fully available.</b> Availability of generic product continues to be sporadic, one generic manufacturer states that stock will be available mid February 2015	The Scottish Drug Tariff price reflects the supply situation – <b>Continue to prescribe by generic name.</b>
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. <b>SDT price remains high</b> (Jan 2015) for 28 tablets is £17.97 (10mg) and £17.46 (20mg)	<b>No new patients should be started on Temazepam.</b>
Nifedipine 5mg & 10mg capsules	<b>Most pharmacies are now reporting supplies of both branded and generic product available sporadically</b>	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect the supply problems. <b>Continue to prescribe by generic name.</b> Amlodipine and Felodipine are FV 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> line choice for calcium channel blockers and further formulary choices are available where pharmacies are unable to source (NB unlicensed for Raynauds). -
Bactroban <sup>®</sup> 2% (mupirocin) cream or ointment	GSK report limited availability of Bactroban <sup>®</sup> 2% cream with full resolution date for both the cream and ointment of February 2015	Generic version of ointment available – prescribe by generic name as ointment.
Diamox <sup>®</sup> SR (Acetazolamide) 250mg capsules	Manufacturer advises unavailable until February 2015	To be initiated on ophthalmologist advice only. Alternative versions of the MR product are available – <b>prescribe by generic name.</b>
Demeclocycline 150mg capsules	Manufacturer advises unavailable until June 2015	Depending on indication alternative products should be used. Advice will be issued separately for patients prescribed the product for SIADH.
Chlordiazepoxide tablets and capsules (all strengths, brand and generic)	Community pharmacies are reporting some availability of capsules in both strengths. The situation may be improving.	See advice on following pages until full resolution.
Oilatum <sup>®</sup> Shower Gel ( <b>Fragrance free only</b> )	Manufacturer expects availability mid February 2015	
Trimethoprim 100mg and 200mg tablets	Some pharmacies are experiencing supply problems. One generic manufacturer expects full resolution (100mg) by end Feb 2015	Some pharmacies may have, or be able to source, stock. An oral suspension 50mg/5ml is available. Some generic 200mg tablets can be halved. Check with local pharmacies. The SDT price of 200mg tablets has been increased to £12.99 for 14.
Caverject <sup>®</sup> Dual Chamber injection 10mcg/ml & 20mcg/ml	Manufacturer expects no resolution of supply until 2016.	Alternative presentations are available but require patient education.
Bisacodyl suppositories 10mg	No known date for resolution	Glycerol suppositories are a FV formulary alternative.
Cholestigel <sup>®</sup> 625mg film coated tablets (colesevelam hydrochloride)	Manufacturer (Sandoz) states some stock is available to pharmacies on direct request to the company. Phone 01483-505515	This product is not on the FV formulary, The formulary option colestipol hydrochloride, for initiation by secondary care is also currently experiencing some supply issues.

#### Contact Information:

General Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Contact your Primary Care Pharmacist; or alternatively

Primary Care Prescribing Support Team on 01786-431200

Email: FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.nett

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Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Colestid <sup>®</sup> 5g granules for oral suspension (colestipol hydrochloride) / Colestid <sup>®</sup> 5g (Orange) granules for oral suspension	Manufacturer has not date for resolution of orange granules. Stock of plain granules expected 6 <sup>th</sup> February	
Questran <sup>®</sup> powder for oral suspension 4g (colestyramine)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution. There is a small amount of Questran <sup>®</sup> Light (sugar-free version) available .	
Mefenamic acid 500mg tablets	One generic manufacture gives resolution date as Q1 2015	Some pharmacies may have residual stocks. Supplies of 250mg capsules may be available, otherwise an alternative NSAID will need to be prescribed, Mefenamic acid is not on FV formulary. Formulary choices include ibuprofen and naproxen
Brufen <sup>®</sup> 600mg tablets & generic Ibuprofen 600mg tablets	Branded manufacturer advises no resolution date. Possible resolution of generic supplies mid to end February 2015	Ensure prescribed by generic name. 400mg & 200mg tablets are available.
Dalacin T <sup>®</sup> (clindamycin) Solution	Manufacturer gives resolution date of January 30 <sup>th</sup> 2015	Dalacin T is non-formulary. Alternative formulary choices are available.
<b>Ongoing supply issues with:</b> Napratec <sup>®</sup> , NiQuitin <sup>®</sup> Lozenges supply issues continue. Lomotil <sup>®</sup> expected to be available June 2015 – see <a href="#">July 2014</a> bulletin for advice. Hyoscine hydrobromide - <b>Kwells<sup>®</sup> (150mcg and 300mcg) are available.</b> Joy-Rides <sup>®</sup> 150mcg are still unavailable with no date for resolution -. For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the <a href="#">Scottish Vaccine Update</a> .		

Resolved Supply Issues
Asmasal Clickhaler <sup>®</sup> - supply issues are being reported as resolved
Morphgesic <sup>®</sup> SR – supply problems have been resolved
Ranitidine (generic and also branded Zantac <sup>®</sup> ) - supply problems have now resolved (all strengths) – continue to prescribe generically
Glucophage <sup>®</sup> SR (metformin) tablets 1000mg – manufacturer states full availability

## Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	FV Formulary & Advice
Lumigan <sup>®</sup> 0.03% multidose eye drops. Discontinued from April 2015	Lumigan <sup>®</sup> 0.03% UNIT DOSE option will continue to be available, as will the 0.01% multi-dose option.
Mucodyne <sup>®</sup> Paediatric 125mg/5ml (carbocisteine oral liquid). Discontinued from April 2015 due to manufacturing problems	Seek specialist advice.
Dipentum <sup>®</sup> (olsalazine) 250mg capsules & 500mg tablets	This product is not of FV formulary. Seek specialist advice for alternatives.
Nivaquine <sup>®</sup> (chloroquine sulphate) Syrup – Discontinued from March 2015	Tablets remain available. Malarivon <sup>®</sup> - chloroquine phosphate is available.

## Chlordiazepoxide Shortage Advice

There is a current shortage of Chlordiazepoxide (licensed as an adjunct in acute alcohol withdrawal). Local pharmacies are reporting some supplies of capsules. **Given the sporadic nature of the supply we would advise checking the current situation with your local pharmacy before prescribing to check the current situation.**

Community pharmacies may still have stock available but may not at present be able to source additional stock from wholesalers.

### Advice for GP prescribers

Detoxification should be accompanied by psychological support provided by Signpost Recovery in line with Forth Valley [Community Management of Alcohol Withdrawal](#) guideline. The recommended first line pharmacological agent for detoxification is chlordiazepoxide.

**We recommend contacting the patient's pharmacy prior to writing a prescription as some pharmacies may have sufficient stock to supply the complete course. Write the prescription appropriately for the stock available (capsule or tablet and strength).**

### Contact Information:

General Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Contact your Primary Care Pharmacist; or alternatively  
 Primary Care Prescribing Support Team on 01786-431200  
 Email: FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net

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## Alternative medication

(continued on next page)

If chlordiazepoxide cannot be sourced diazepam is a licensed alternative benzodiazepine and may be substituted. The BNF quotes a conversion of 5mg diazepam = 12.5mg chlordiazepoxide.

Due to the potential illicit value of diazepam, instalment dispensing should be carefully considered and the tablets prescribed in the 2mg strength only.

The regime overleaf is a direct conversion from the [NICE Alcohol Use Disorders](#) sample dosing regimens for managing alcohol withdrawal. This regimen is based on moderate dependence for someone with daily alcohol consumption of 15-25 units and with SADQ score of 15-25. The reducing schedule may be **started at day one, two or three** depending on severity of dependence.

<u>Diazepam</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Lunchtime</u>	<u>Tea time</u>	<u>Bedtime</u>
<b>Day 1</b>	10mg	10mg	10mg	10mg
<b>Day 2</b>	8mg	8mg	8mg	8mg
<b>Day 3</b>	6mg	6mg	6mg	6mg
<b>Day 4</b>	4mg	4mg	4mg	4mg
<b>Day 5</b>	4mg	4mg	-	4mg
<b>Day 6</b>	2mg	2mg	-	2mg
<b>Day 7</b>	2mg	-	-	2mg
<b>Day 8</b>	-	-	-	2mg

In liver impairment a benzodiazepine which requires limited liver metabolism should be used. Consider advice or referral to specialist services.

### Community Pharmacies

Where a prescription for chlordiazepoxide is received, confirm that the full supply can be provided. Where stock cannot be obtained from wholesalers or from other pharmacies, contact the prescriber with regard to requesting a change of prescription as above. If the prescriber does not feel this is within their competence, they should contact a prescriber at the Community Alcohol & Drug Service (CADS).

Additional information and updates on the current stock position will be provided when available.

### For further support / information please contact

Substance Misuse Pharmacist:

Jean B. Logan 01786 454798 or 07920 711 033

Community Alcohol & Drug Service:

North: 01786 434433

South: 01324 630957

*Advice based on information obtained from NHS Ayrshire & Arran Medicines Utilisation Unit. Reducing schedule information and local contacts information provided by Jean Logan, Substance Misuse Pharmacist.*

### **Contact Information:**

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