

Dear Colleague

## **EXTENSION ON THE SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOLS ISSUED FOR OESTROGEL<sup>®</sup>, OVESTIN<sup>®</sup>, LENZETTO<sup>®</sup> SPRAY AND SANDRENA<sup>®</sup> GEL**

### **Purpose**

1. This Circular advises NHS Boards and community pharmacy contractors that the 12 UK-wide active Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for HRT products due to expire on 28 October 2022, have now been extended.
2. The extensions are applicable to the following HRT products: Oestrogen<sup>®</sup>; Ovestin<sup>®</sup>; and Sandrena<sup>®</sup> gel that will be extended until **Wednesday 30 November 2022**. Along with Lenzetto<sup>®</sup> spray which will be extended until **Friday 13 January 2023**. Please refer to Annex A for a detailed list of all 12 SSPs which have been extended.

### **Background**

3. To assist in alleviating the current issues with HRT availability, various UK-wide SSPs have been issued by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), in consultation with the Scottish Government. An SSP is an additional tool to manage and mitigate medication shortages for prescribing clinicians, community pharmacies and importantly patients.
4. Each SSP is individually developed and authorised clinically, to enable community pharmacists and dispensing doctors to dispense a different strength or formulation or alternative medicine or appliances in accordance with the protocol, rather than having to refer prescribing decisions back to the original prescriber. These protocols are time limited.
5. The DHSC frequently reviews which HRT products should be under an SSP and for how long they need to be in place.

2 November 2022

### **Addresses**

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards  
Director Practitioner Services,  
NHS NSS

#### For information

Directors of Pharmacy  
NHS Medical Directors

### **Enquiries to:**

Pharmacy Team  
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St Andrew's House  
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Email:

[PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot)

[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

6. Any amendments or extensions to existing SSPs are documented on the NHS Business Services Authority website using the following link: [Serious shortage protocols \(SSPs\) | NHSBSA.](#)

### **Enquiries**

7. For any queries on the details of this circular, please contact the Scottish Government Pharmacy Team at [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot).

### **Action**

8. **Health Boards are asked to note the contents of this Circular and to bring it to the attention of community pharmacy contractors on their Pharmaceutical Lists and Area Pharmaceutical Committees. This Circular should also be brought to the attention of General Practices.**

Yours sincerely



**Alison Strath**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

### Active Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for HRT products as of 28 October 2022

SSP Number	PCA(P) Number	Product	Advice for community pharmacists on SSP	Switch if applicable	Status
019	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)09</a>	Estradiol (Oestrogel) 0.06% gel	Restrict to 3 months' supply	N/A	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
020	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)10</a>	Estriol (Ovestin 1mg) 0.1% cream	Restrict to 3 months' supply	N/A	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
022	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)13</a>	Estradiol (Oestrogel) 0.06% gel	Rx < 3 months' supply- unrestricted switch (same length of supply dispensed of alternative product)	Estradiol patches – depending on equivalent dose	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
023	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)14</a>	Estradiol (Oestrogel) 0.06% gel	Rx > months' supply – restricted switch (max 3 months' supply of alternative product)	Estradiol patches – depending on equivalent dose	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
024	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)15</a>	Estriol (Ovestin 1mg) 0.1% cream	Rx < 3 months' supply- unrestricted switch (same length of supply dispensed of alternative product)	Estriol 0.01% cream	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
025	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)16</a>	Estriol (Ovestin 1mg) 0.1% cream	Rx > months' supply – restricted switch (max 3 months' supply of alternative product)	Estriol 0.01% cream	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
026	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)17</a>	Estradiol (Lenzetto) 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray	Restrict to 3 months' supply		Active, extended until 13/01/2023
027	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)18</a>	Estradiol (Lenzetto) 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray	Rx < 3 months' supply- unrestricted switch (same length of supply dispensed of alternative product)	Estradiol patches – depending on equivalent dose	Active, extended until 13/01/2023
028	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)19</a>	Estradiol (Lenzetto) 1.53mg/dose transdermal spray	Rx > months' supply – restricted switch (max 3 months' supply of alternative product)	Estradiol patches – depending on equivalent dose	Active, extended until 13/01/2023
029	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)20</a>	Estradiol (Sandrena) 500microgram and 1mg gel sachets	Restrict to 3 months' supply		Active, extended

SSP Number	PCA(P) Number	Product	Advice for community pharmacists on SSP	Switch if applicable	Status
					until 30/11/2022
030	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)21</a>	Estradiol (Sandrena) 500microgram and 1mg gel sachets	Rx < 3 months' supply- unrestricted switch (same length of supply dispensed of alternative product)	Estradiol patches – depending on equivalent dose	Active, extended until 30/11/2022
031	<a href="#">PCA(P)(2022)22</a>	Estradiol (Sandrena) 500microgram and 1mg gel sachets	Rx > months' supply – restricted switch (max 3 months' supply of alternative product)	Estradiol patches – depending on equivalent dose	Active, extended until 30/11/2022