

This information has been produced in collaboration with CAHMS, CCH and adult mental health services.

Guanfacine (Intuniv[®]) modified release tablets – supply issues

Supply issues with various strengths of guanfacine (Intuniv[®]) modified-release tablets have been identified, full details of products affected and dates are included below. **The medication should not be stopped suddenly so we require primary care to proactively contact patients in relation to supplies.**

Prescribing in NHS Grampian (ePrescribed data. May 2023 – 12th August 2023, run 26/09/23)

310 patients (266 aged under 18, 44 aged 18 and over) have been identified as being prescribed guanfacine within NHS Grampian. Patient information will be circulated via HSCP Lead Pharmacists for GP practices to action.

Stock information & availability

- Intuniv[®] is the only brand of licensed guanfacine available in the UK.
- Resupply dates are dependent on strength of medication, ranging from late November to early December (see below table taken from SPS, 28/09/23).
- Not all strengths are currently out-of-stock i.e. there has been advance warning given of dates where stock will go out (see below table taken from SPS, 28/09/23).
- Unlicensed imports may be available, however information on lead times is not available (and likely to be variable).

Intuniv [®] availability dates				
Product	Strength	Currently out of stock	Anticipated date of out of stock	Anticipated re-supply date
Intuniv [®]	1mg	No - future OOS	22 October 2023	04 December 2023
Intuniv [®]	2mg	No - future OOS		
Intuniv [®]	3mg	No - future OOS	05 November 2023	
Intuniv [®]	4mg	Yes	Currently OOS	20 November 2023

Actions for Primary Care

- As this medication cannot be stopped suddenly, a proactive approach to this shortage must be undertaken.
 - Using the CHI information attached, identify patients currently prescribed guanfacine/ Intuniv[®] to advise of the pending shortage and understand personal stocks.
 - Where patients have enough stocks to cover the duration of supply issues, no further action is needed.
- Where patients do not have enough stocks to cover the duration of supply issues:
 - Liaise with local pharmacies to ascertain what supplies of guanfacine (Intuniv[®]) they are able to get. This includes ascertaining if they are able to get supplies of other strengths of guanfacine (Intuniv[®]) to cover duration of supply issues.

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- Where supplies can be procured, to cover the medication needed for the duration of supply issues, issue a prescription and advise community pharmacy.
- If the patient does not have or cannot obtain an adequate supply to cover them until the anticipated resupply date (see table above), then **contact the specialist service who have recommended the medication should be made without delay**. Within NHS Grampian this may be:
 - CAMHS: contact the specialist whom the patient is open to (see clinic letters). An email can be sent directly to the specialist or via gram.camhs@nhs.scot.
 - CCH: contact the specialist whom the patient is open to (see clinic letters)
 - Adult mental health : contact the specialist whom the patient is open to (see clinic letters)
- If contacting the specialist service, please state clearly how many treatment days patients have remaining (considering patient personal stock and confirmed available stock within the network including alternative available strengths) to allow prioritisation of queries.
- Where the recommendation to prescribe was from out with the NHS (i.e. private recommendation and GP has assumed clinical responsibility for prescribing), queries should not be directed to any specialist as these patients are not under the care of an NHS specialist service. Patients should be directed back to their private provider and advised that this medication should not be stopped suddenly.

Actions for community pharmacy

- Share this information with all relevant staff.
- Be alert to ongoing supply issues, and where a prescription is unable to be fulfilled due to supply issues:
 - Ascertain how much personal stocks patients have available to them, and if this will ensure continued cover until resolution of issues (see table with dates above).
 - Where stocks are sufficient to cover duration of supply issues, provide information to patient on when they can expect further supplies to be made.
- Where stocks cannot be procured to ensure continuous supplies of medication, contact the patient's GP practice without delay. Consider what alternative strengths of the medication can be obtained to resolve the issue and make GP practice aware of this.
- Patients should not be advised to contact GP directly, it is expected the communications relating to this issue are dealt with via community pharmacy – GP practice/pharmacotherapy communication route.
- Patients/carers should not be advised to contact or travel to other community pharmacies looking for stocks – this is widespread issue and multiple patients contacting/attending pharmacies can result in an unnecessary increase in workload.

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Actions for the specialist service

- Respond to individual patient queries from primary care about what action to take if a patient does not have an adequate supply of guanfacine (Intuniv®).
- For patients unable to obtain continuous supplies of guanfacine, if supplies do not allow for daily dosing, then medication should be discontinued, as a treatment break greater than two days requires re-titration. Ideally discontinuation should be done gradually where supplies allow, reducing by 1mg every 3-7 days.
- Do not start new patients on ADHD medications until the supply issues have been resolved.
- For each patient who has a scheduled review of their ADHD medication by their specialist service during the period of shortage, the specialist should:
 - Inform them of the shortage and anticipated resupply dates,
 - Make a plan appropriate to clinical need and situation, and in the context of the widespread shortages.

Further information

- [Shortage of Guanfacine \(Intuniv\) modified-release tablets – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#) (NHS email address and log on required)
- [Guidance For The Management Of Medicine Shortages Within NHS Grampian](#)