



Medicine Supply Notification

MSN/2022/066

Aripiprazole 10mg tablets

Tier 2 – medium impact*

Date of issue: 03/08/2022

Link: [Medicines Supply Tool](#)

Summary

- Aripiprazole 10mg tablets are in limited supply until late August 2022.
- Alternative strengths and formulations of aripiprazole remain available, but no individual product can support a full uplift in demand.

Actions Required

Clinicians should:

- not initiate any new patients on aripiprazole 10mg tablets; and
- not prescribe alternative aripiprazole preparations unless the patient does not have sufficient supplies of aripiprazole 10mg tablets.

Where patients do not have sufficient stock of aripiprazole 10mg tablets to last until the resupply date, clinicians should:

- consider prescribing higher strength aripiprazole tablets to deliver the same dose if appropriate; or
- consider prescribing aripiprazole 5mg tablets, working with local pharmacy teams to understand availability, to deliver the same dose if appropriate, until the resupply date;
- ensure that the patient is not intolerant to any of the excipients and is counselled on any changes to their dosing regimen; or
- consider prescribing unlicensed products only where licensed alternatives are not appropriate. Prescribers should work with local pharmacy teams to ensure orders are placed within appropriate time frames as lead times may vary (see Supporting Information); or
- if the above options are not considered appropriate or available, advice should be sought from specialists on management options.

Supporting information

[SmPC - aripiprazole](#)

[BNF - aripiprazole](#)

[Guidance on ordering and prescribing unlicensed imports](#)

*Classification of Tiers can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/a-guide-to-managing-medicines-supply-and-shortages/>

- The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed aripiprazole 10mg tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical
 - Orifarm
 - Target Healthcare
 - Mawdsley's Unlicensed
- Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Trust or local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information:
 - [The supply of unlicensed medicinal products](#), Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
 - [Professional Guidance for the Procurement and Supply of Specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society
 - [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC),
- When prescribing a product that is not licensed in the UK due to a supply issue with the licensed alternative prescribers must indicate on the FP10 prescription that an unlicensed product is required. This can be done in one of the following two ways:
 - Electronic prescriptions – if the required unlicensed product is shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should select:
 - Aripiprazole 10mg tablets (imported)
 - Paper prescriptions – where the unlicensed product is not shown on electronic prescribing systems, GPs should use a paper prescription and annotate with the following wording: **“special order”**.

Enquiries

If you have any queries, please contact DHSCmedicinesupplyteam@dhsc.gov.uk.