

Quetiapine standard release tablets (150mg, 200mg & 300mg) Limited Supplies

Shortage information

A shortage of quetiapine standard release tablets (150mg, 200mg & 300mg) has been identified.

Prescribing in NHS Grampian*

652 patients have been prescribed the affected strengths of quetiapine.

Stock information & availability

Stocks of quetiapine standard release tablets (150mg, 200mg & 300mg) are expected to be limited until end August 2024.

Other strengths of standard release quetiapine (25mg, 50mg & 100mg) remain available and can support a partial uplift in demand.

While prolonged release quetiapine remains available, it is not recommended for prescribing within NHS Grampian.

Formulary status

Standard release quetiapine is included in the Grampian Area Formulary.

Prolonged release quetiapine is not recommended for use within NHS Grampian.

Actions for primary care

New patients

Do not start any new patients on the affected strengths of standard release quetiapine until resolution of supply constraints.

Consideration should also be given to starting patients on lower strength quetiapine for the duration of the shortage – as this will increase the demand on stocks which could be used to support patients currently prescribed quetiapine.

Current patients

For some patient's, personal stock as well as stock within the community pharmacy network may mean that no change to prescribing is required. Proactive switching should not be undertaken and stock information should be ascertained prior to undertaking a switch.

While community pharmacy can provide alternative strengths (where available) to manage stock limitations, there may be instances where more complex patients may require input from GP practice or specialist service.

Any changes to prescribing should be for the duration of supply issues only.

Actions for community pharmacy

Due to timelines and limited stocks being available, not all patients will require an intervention.

Where patients have insufficient supply of quetiapine (150mg, 200mg, & 300mg) tablets to ensure continuous treatment consider supplying alternative strengths of

quetiapine (25mg, 50mg or 100mg tablets), using the largest strength tablet(s) available to provide the required dose. Prescriptions should be electronically endorsed to reflect alternative strengths of medication issued.

While for the majority of patients a change number/strength of tablets to make up a dose will be an acceptable change, where there are patient factors that could make this switch challenging the prescriber should be contacted.

Patients should be made aware that any changes to their usual medication is for the duration of supply issues only and they should order their next prescription as normal.

Where it would not be deemed suitable or is not possible to switch a patient's quetiapine to alternative strengths of standard release quetiapine, the patient's GP practice should be consulted without delay to discuss the issue (include details of how many days medication remain available to patient, from personal and community pharmacy stocks).

Community pharmacies are reminded that all wholesalers should be contacted to obtain stocks.

Further information

[Shortage of Quetiapine 150mg, 200mg and 300mg tablets – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#) (NHS email required to access)

**Data information*

Data provided is ePrescribed (March 2024 – June 2024, run 07/06/24)

The data provides prescribing information. It does not confirm that the prescription has been dispensed by community pharmacy or collected by the patient.

The data only captures electronic prescribing information – any non-barcoded prescriptions will not be included.