**Shortage Cefalexin 500mg Tablets**

**Shortage information**

A shortage of cefalexin 500mg tablets has been identified. A resupply date of end September 2024 has been provided.

**Stock information & availability**

Cefalexin 500mg capsules remain available.

Other strengths of cefalexin are available, but are unable to support an uplift in demand.

Cefalexin is a ‘first generation’ cephalosporin licensed for the treatment of the following infections due to susceptible micro-organisms: respiratory tract infections, otitis media, skin and soft tissue infections, bone and joint infections, genito-urinary infections, including acute prostatitis, and dental infections.

For more information regarding antibiotic choices check the Antibiotic App:

[Antimicrobial prescribing: NHS Grampian, Orkney & Shetland | Right Decisions (scot.nhs.uk)](https://rightdecisions.scot.nhs.uk/antimicrobial-prescribing-nhs-grampian-orkney-shetland/)

**Actions for primary care**

**Community Pharmacy/Dispensing Doctors**

* where a prescription for cefalexin 500mg tablets is presented and cannot be fulfilled, cefalexin 500mg capsules should be supplied in accordance with SSP 072 (Issued on 6 August 2024 attached).
* Ensure the cautions and exclusion criteria are taken into account when considering using an SSP, and ensure patients/parents/carers are counselled regarding the switch in formulation, and acceptability of gelatine in the capsules.
* If the patient is deemed ineligible or does not consent to receive the capsule formulation via the SSP, they should be promptly referred back to the prescriber.

**GP Practice Teams**

Prescribers should:

* not initiate new patients on cefalexin 500mg tablets until the supply issue has resolved
* consider prescribing cefalexin 500mg capsules, if suitable, checking patient acceptability of gelatine content of capsules
* if cefalexin capsules are unsuitable, consider prescribing an alternative antibiotic, taking into account allergies and local and national guidance on antimicrobial prescribing