



30 December 2025

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Clonidine (Catapres®) 100microgram tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: mid-February 2026

Issue

1. Clonidine (Catapres®) 100microgram tablets are out of stock until mid-February 2026.
2. Clonidine 25microgram tablets remain available and can support increased demand.
3. Clonidine 50micrograms/5ml and 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free remain available and can support increased demand.
4. Where these are not suitable, unlicensed supplies of clonidine 100microgram tablets may be sourced, lead times vary.

Advice and Actions

5. Where patients have insufficient supplies to last until the resupply date, prescribers should:
 - consider prescribing clonidine 25microgram tablets and counsel patients on the equivalent number of tablets required (see additional information section below); or
 - consider prescribing clonidine 50micrograms/5ml or 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar-free and counsel patients on the equivalent volume of liquid required (see additional information below); or
 - consider prescribing unlicensed clonidine 100microgram tablets 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 additional information section below).

Additional Information

Clinical Information

6. Clonidine (Catapres®) 100microgram tablets and 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free are licensed for the treatment of all grades of essential and secondary hypertension. Initial treatment dose is 50 – 100 micrograms three times daily, which is increased gradually, with most patients controlled on divided daily doses of 300 – 1200 micrograms.
7. Clonidine 25microgram tablets and 50micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free are licensed for the prophylactic management of migraine or recurrent vascular headache and the management

*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notice-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

of vasomotor conditions commonly associated with the menopause and characterised by flushing.

8. Despite difference in licensed indication(s), there are no known differences in bioavailability between clonidine 25microgram tablets or clonidine 50microgram/5ml and 100microgram/5ml oral solution sugar free or Catapres® 100microgram tablets, and they can be considered interchangeable.
9. Clonidine is also used off-label in paediatric patients, for procedural and non-procedural sedation, dystonia and pain.
10. When switching patients to clonidine 25microgram tablets or clonidine 50microgram/5ml or 100microgram/5ml oral solution sugar free, clinicians should consider the quantity of tablets or volume of liquid required to deliver the equivalent dose and check patient's understanding (see Table 1).

Preparation	Equivalent dose to clonidine 100 microgram
Clonidine 25microgram tablets	4 tablets
Clonidine 50micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free	10ml
Clonidine 100micrograms/5ml oral solution sugar free	5ml

Table 1: Clonidine 100microgram tablets equivalent conversion

Links to further information

- [BNF – Clonidine](#)
- [SmPC – Clonidine](#)

11. The following specialist importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed clonidine 100microgram tablets (please note there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alcatia Pharma
 - Clinigen
 - Mawdsleys
 - Target Healthcare
12. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board governance procedures. Unlicensed imports do not undergo any central quality assessment or suitability evaluation. Therefore, any import must be locally assessed in line with local unlicensed medicines processes. 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).

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website

13. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to

date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.

14. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

Enquiries

15. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot (secondary care).