

Dear Colleague

## EXTENSION TO SERIOUS SHORTAGE PROTOCOLS FOR CREON® GASTRO-RESISTANT CAPSULES

### Purpose

1. This Circular advises Health Boards and community pharmacy contractors that two UK-wide Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for Creon® gastro-resistant capsules both due to expire on 16 January 2026 have been extended.
2. The extension applies to [SSP060](#) (Creon® 10000), which has been extended until **Friday 30 January 2026** and [SSP061](#) (Creon® 25000), which has been extended until **Friday 17 April 2026**. All other terms of these two SSPs remain unchanged. Under both SSPs, community pharmacists may continue to restrict the total quantity supplied to one months' supply of the prescribed medicine.
3. Community pharmacists are advised to review and familiarise themselves with the new end dates for the above noted SSPs.

### Background

4. To assist in alleviating current supply issues with medicines availability, various UK-wide SSPs have been issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), in consultation with the Scottish Government. An SSP is an additional tool to manage and mitigate medication shortages for prescribing clinicians, community pharmacies and importantly patients.
5. Each SSP is individually developed and authorised clinically, to enable community pharmacists and dispensing doctors to dispense a different strength or formulation or alternative medicine or appliances in accordance with the protocol, rather than having to refer prescribing decisions back to the original prescriber. These protocols are time limited.

16 January 2026

### Addresses

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards  
Director Practitioner Services,  
NHS NSS

#### For information

Directors of Pharmacy  
NHS Medical Directors

### Enquiries to:

Pharmacy Team  
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EH1 3DG

Email:

[PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot)

[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

6. Community pharmacists are expected to use their professional skill and judgement to decide whether it is reasonable and appropriate to substitute a person's prescribed medicine using the SSP. The person will also have to agree to the alternative supply.
7. The DHSC frequently reviews which medicines should be under an SSP and for how long they need to be in place.
8. Any amendments or extensions to existing SSPs are documented on the NHS Business Services Authority website using the following link: [Serious shortage protocols \(SSPs\) | NHSBSA](#).

### **Enquiries**

9. For any queries on the details of this circular, please contact the Scottish Government Pharmacy Team at [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot).

### **Action**

10. **Health Boards are asked to note the contents of this Circular and to bring it to the attention of community pharmacy contractors on their Pharmaceutical Lists and their local Area Pharmaceutical Committee. This Circular should also be brought to the attention of General Practices.**

Yours sincerely,



**Alison Strath**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer