

Please Circulate to All Relevant Staff

A regular update bulletin which informs and advises on the latest medicine supply problems and product discontinuations, with additional local advice on suggested actions or alternatives for Formulary products included in the Tayside Area Formulary (TAF).

The information is collated from a range of sources.

Information on **product discontinuations** is collated using information received from manufacturers, and also online resources¹.

Intermittent supply problems can occur due to either manufacturing issues causing shortages of **branded** products ('Manufacturer Cannot Supply', **MCS**) or supply issues affecting **generic** medicines, resulting in generics being difficult to obtain at Scottish Drug Tariff Part 7 (SDT) prices, or at all ('**Short Supply**', **SHS**) in Community settings.

Information on Part 7 generic medicines which are identified as being in short supply is published on a monthly basis in the form of SDT Part 13 and is updated throughout the month by ISD (<http://tinyurl.com/ScotDT>). Information is also available via the Community Pharmacy Scotland Website (<http://tinyurl.com/CPS-ShortagesInfo>). Inclusion in Part 13 allows Community Pharmacists to be reimbursed appropriately if higher costs are incurred in obtaining those Part 7 generics listed.

Supply issues are constantly in flux and your local Community Pharmacist/Principal Pharmacist will be able to give you up to date advice on availability.

The advice in this bulletin is not intended to serve as a standard of medical care or be applicable in every situation. Decisions regarding the treatment of individual patients must be made by the clinician in light of that patient's presenting clinical condition and with reference to current good medical practice.

Refs: 1. http://www.pjonline.com/discontinued_products

Products with Supply Issues

Product	Current Supply Problem	Impact & Advice
Lacri-lube® eye ointment	Manufacturer states resolution date for supply of March 2016	TAF choice is Xailin night, although there have been reports of supply problems with this product, these are not expected to continue.
Creon® 40,000 gastro-resistant capsules (pancreatic enzymes)	Manufacturer has no date for resolution	The manufacturer recommends switching patients currently established on a 40,000 unit capsule regimen to Creon® 25,000 to lower the pill burden. Suggested conversions to 25,000 unit capsules: 1 x 40,000u capsule TO 2 x 25,000u capsules 2 x 40,000u capsules TO 3 x 25,000u capsules. 10,000u capsules are also available. (Ref: 'Dear Healthcare Professional' letter, Abbot March 2015)

Pioglitazone tablets	Pharmacies are reporting problems sourcing pioglitazone tablets. One generic manufacturers give a resolution date for all strengths of February 2016	<p>The advice from the Diabetes MCN is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Most patients who are unable to source pioglitazone should be left off this without, initially, any substitution (though pioglitazone should be restarted if it becomes available within 3 months). ➤ HbA1c levels should be checked after three months. ➤ If at three months they have a deterioration > 5mmol/mol, an alternative agent should be prescribed. Where appropriate, an SGLT2 Inhibitor (dapagliflozin or empagliflozin) should be strongly considered at this stage. ➤ if there is no deterioration at 3 months (<5mmol/mol) and this holds at 6 months (still <5mmol/mol) then no alternative should be prescribed and pioglitazone should not be restarted in future. ➤ The exception to all this is if the GP Team knows that the patient is currently on pioglitazone because they had a proven strong response to it in the 3-6 months after it was commenced, then immediate substitution with an alternative drug, (again considering an SGLT2 Inhibitor) would be appropriate, to prevent 3-6 months of poor HbA1c levels. ➤ The new 'Prescribing Timeline Function' on SCI-Diabetes will help you assess the efficacy of pioglitazone (and other hypoglycaemic therapies) in specific patients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To find this in a patient's SCI-Diabetes record, click on 'Detailed Clinical Record' in the left hand side menu then 'Prescribing Timeline Function'.
Zovirax® (aciclovir) eye ointment	Manufacturer states out of stock with no resolution until end of March 2016	To be initiated on advice from secondary care or optometrists. No generic available. Ganciclovir 0.15% ophthalmic gel is available as a formulary alternative (Hospital Use Only) for aciclovir resistant herpetic keratitis.
Trimovate®,	<p>Full information for individual products can be found at http://hcp.gsk.co.uk/supply.html</p> <p>Pharmacies are reporting sporadic supply.</p> <p>All GSK products with the exception of Trimovate® are reported by GSK as available in either 100g or 30g pack sizes- pack sizes can be checked at above link. Trimovate® remains out of stock and has a resolution date of end February 2016</p>	Trimovate® is NOT currently available - alternative steroid products in combination with antimicrobials are available in the formulary where Trimovate® would have been selected.
Demeclocycline 150mg capsules	Manufacturer advises unavailable until February 2016.	Depending on indication alternative products should be used. Appears on CPS shortage list so invoice price will be reimbursed. Tablets are available as an imported special where no alternative is available (eg SIADH)
Megace® 160mg (megestrol_ tablets	Manufacturer stated resolution date of supply March 2016	Unlicensed products are available in the short term until licensed product becomes available. The local specials process should be followed by Community Pharmacists

Antepsin® (Sulcralfate) 1G/5ml suspension & 1G tablets	No new patients should be initiated. Manufacturer expects resolution of UK licensed stock availability in Q3 2016.	Imported product (unlicensed in the UK) is available from IDIS. PSD will also accept endorsements during this time. Pharmacies have been advised to return to using the UK licensed product once it becomes available again. Martindale can also supply unlicensed suspension
Temazepam tablets	Supply issues over last few months. SDT price remains high (January 2016) for 28 tablets is £5.86 (10mg) and £5.83 (20mg)	No new patients should be started on Temazepam. NB Temazepam is subject to full CD prescription requirements from 1/6/15.
Nifedipine 5mg capsules	Some supplies are beginning to become available. Full resolution may take several weeks	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect the supply problems. Continue to prescribe by generic name. Amlodipine is the 1 st line choice for calcium channel blockers and further formulary choices are available where pharmacies are unable to source (NB unlicensed for Raynauds). Branded Adalat® remains available
Bisacodyl suppositories 10mg	Distribution is expected to begin early May 2015	Glycerol suppositories are a TAF formulary alternative.
Questran® powder for oral suspension 4g (colestyramine)	Manufacturer states some stock available to pharmacies on direct request to company (phone 01483-505515)	Generic sugar-free colestyramine sachets are available, as is Questran® Light (sugar free version)
Ponstan® Mefenamic acid 500mg tablets and 250mg capsules	Branded manufacturer states no supply of 500mg or 250mg- supply expected to resume by December 2015. Generic 500mg tablets are available	The Scottish Drug Tariff price has been temporarily increased to reflect supply problems. Some pharmacies may have residual stocks. Supplies of 250mg capsules may be available, otherwise an alternative NSAID will need to be prescribed, Mefenamic acid is restricted on TAF for use in menorrhagia. Formulary choices include ibuprofen and naproxen

Ongoing supply issues with:

Napratec®, NiQuitin® Lozenges supply issues continue.

Lomotil® expected to be available end of 2016 – Hyoscine hydrobromide - **Kwells® (150mcg and 300mcg) are available.** Joy-Rides® 150mcg are still unavailable with a provisional date for resolution of January 2016

For information on current vaccine supply issues see the latest edition of the [Scottish Vaccine Update](#).

Resolved Supply Issues

Oilatum® Shower gel (fragrance free)

Caverject® (Alprostadil) powder for reconstitution 40mcg vial

Discontinued Products

Discontinued Product	TAF Formulary & Advice
Pulvinal® beclometasone 100mcg, 200mcg and 400mcg	TAF (Respiratory MCN) first line choice is QVAR® or Clenil®
Pulvinal® salbutamol 200mcg	Alternative DPI and MDI available in TAF
Asmasal® (salbutamol) Clickhaler 95mcg	Alternative DPI and MDI available in TAF
Gyno-Daktarin® (Miconazole) 1200mg vaginal capsule	Was non Formulary in TAF. Clotrimazole preparations available as formulary choices
Climagest® 1mg tablets (qmg oestradiol valerate and 1mg norethisterone)	Alternative HRT products are available in TAF

Acknowledgement

This document has been adapted from NHS Forth Valley 'Supply Issues Bulletin'.

Contact Information - General Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

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This update is based on evidence available to Tayside Prescribing Support Unit at the time of publication and is covered by the Disclaimer and T&Cs of use.