**Supply issues update for primary care September 2018 -** this report has been produced by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Medicine Supply team. We aim to update this report on a monthly basis for the PRESCQIPP network to provide an update on current primary care medicine supplies issues that we are working on. Please share with all relevant colleagues and networks in primary care.

**Information provided w/c 24th September 2018**

**New issues**

**Sinemet (co-careldopa) tablets:**

* MSD have alerted the DHSC about a supply issue affecting their Sinemet range - please see attached company letter
* The latest update we have on the current supply position is:

·        **Sinemet 12.5mg/50mg** -  product is now back in stock and further deliveries are expected in November. No further issues are expected

·        **Sinemet Plus 25mg/100mg** – product currently in stock, but will be unavailable from approximately mid-October until end of November with intermittent supplies then expected from the end of Nov until Q1 2019

·        **Sinemet 25mg/250mg -** MSD are currently out of stock and further supplies will not be available until Q1 2019

·        All other Sinemet preparations are unaffected

* DHSC has been working with generic suppliers on this issue and can confirm generic co-careldopa supplies in all the above strengths will be available to support the intermittent supply constraints
* DHSC are continuing to work with MSD and generic manufacturers to manage the overall supply position over the coming months and will provide an update when more information is available
* MSD have provided information to Parkinson’s UK which can accessed on their website via the following link: <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/news/manufacturing-capacity-causes-shortage-sinemet>



**Ativan (lorazepam) injection:**

* Pfizer have notified us of a supply issue and are currently out of stock. Pfizer are the sole supplier of this product in the UK.
* Further supplies are currently expected 26th October 2018.
* To help manage the supply issues, UKMI have prepared the following advice on alternatives, which can be found here: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-ativan-lorazepam-injection-4-mg-in-1-ml/>.
* Supply information about all of the suggested alternatives can be found in the following table:
* We are aware that a number of specialist importer companies have been able to source supplies from abroad, although lead times will vary. If pharmacies are requiring unlicensed stock, they should place orders with the unlicensed companies as soon as possible due to the longer lead times for this stock
* As there is no further licensed stock available from Pfizer until end of October, please review UKMI memo and make local decisions about clinical substitutes and please share information about this supply issue and alternative option with clinicians.

**Zemplar (paricalcitol) 2mcg capsules:**

* Abbvie have alerted us to a supply issue with Zemplar (paricalcitol) 2mcg capsules
* Zemplar (paricalcitol) 1mcg capsules remain available to order and Abbvie have confirmed they have enough stock to cover demand for both presentations.
* Resupply for the Zemplar (Paricalcitol) 2mcg capsules is anticipated mid-October

**Tambocor (flecainide) 200mg modified release tablets:**

* Tevaare experiencing a supply issue affecting Tambocor (flecainide) 200mg modified release tablets due to a recent change in ownership that has resulted in a disruption to supply.
* Generic presentations of Flecainide 50mg and 100mg immediate release tablets remain available.
* Resupply for Tambocor (flecainide) 200mg modified release tablets is anticipated in 2019.

**Ongoing issues**

**EpiPen and EpiPen Junior:**

* There have been ongoing supply issues affecting EpiPen, supplied by Mylan for several months. The issue is due to manufacturing delays from Mylan’s contract manufacturer, Meridian Medical Technologies, a Pfizer company in the US. Stabilising supply is taking longer than anticipated and is affecting countries globally.
* Initially the delays affected the 300mcg preparation of EpiPen, however these have recently been extended to the EpiPen Junior 150mcg device.
* In the UK there are two alternative adrenaline auto-injector devices available, Emerade, supplied by Bausch and Lomb and Jext, supplied by ALK. Both companies manufacture adult and paediatric presentations of adrenaline auto-injectors. Both companies are aware of the supply disruptions affecting EpiPen and EpiPen Junior and have been working with their supply chains to increase supplies to the UK for the remainder of this year.
* Overall supply update below for all presentations.
* On Friday 28th Sep, DHSC issues a supply disruption alert about EpiPen and EpiPen Junior, please see attached



0.3mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

* Currently supplies are available of EpiPen 0.3mg via a stock management process. Pharmacies are allocated stock on a prescription-only basis and can place orders for up to a maximum of two EpiPen 0.3mg Auto-Injectors per prescription.
* Also Pfizer recently made available to Mylan a limited volume of EpiPen 0.3mg Auto-Injectors that will expire in February 2019. This supply is not subject to the current prescription validation process, as outlined above, and will be available for pharmacists to order and hold in stock.
* Further information regarding this stock and a statement from Mylan is available via the following link: <http://www.epipen.co.uk/>
* Supplies of Emerade and Jext are currently available, but may be limited due to the ongoing Epipen supply. Further supplies are scheduled for September and October.
* Emerade also supply a 0.5mg adrenaline auto-injector.

0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

* This issue is now also affecting EpiPen Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injector in the UK
* Mylan is now out of stock EpiPen Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injectors until the next shipment arrives, estimated to be early October, but this supply will be very limited.
* Due to the supply situation with EpiPen Jr 0.15mg, supplies of both Jext and Emerade 0.15mg adrenaline auto-injectors are also limited. New supplies of both product will be made available during the w/c 24th September, with further supplies scheduled for October. However, supplies will be limited and the situation is likely to be constrained until the Mylan supply situation has resolved.
* Current prescribing patterns suggest there may be a substantial proportion of children using the Junior EpiPen who under current guidance should already be using 300mcg devices recommended for children over 30kg.
* Please refer to CAS alert for Paediatric dosing advice

**Clomipramine**

* Teva and Mylan are the only UK suppliers and they have notified us of supply interruptions due to API issues
* 10mg capsules – Teva and Mylan both have stock available
* 25mg capsules – both out of stock, Mylan have advised resupply is due early October and Teva have advised a resupply is due early November
* 50mg capsules – Mylan have limited stock available via wholesalers and Teva have advised resupply is due early November.

**Promazine tablets:**

* Teva are the sole supplier and they have notified us of an issue with their supplies.
* Currently the 50mg tablet is out of stock with further supplies due mid-October.
* Supplies of 25mg tablet remain available with further supplies expected by the end of September.
* Rosemont have advised that the oral liquid preparation remains available in both 25mg/5ml and 50mg/5ml.

**Adalat (Nifedipine) all products:**

* Bayer, have informed us of supply disruption affecting a range of oral Adalat (nifedipine) preparations
* There will be some out of stock periods for some preparations and long-term discontinuations- specific details the communication attached below.
* This communication also and lists the other preparations of Adalat (nifedipine) that remain available to order as well as contact details for healthcare professionals to obtain further advice and support.



* Supplies of other nifedipine capsules and tablets remain available currently, including;
  + Adipine (Chiesi)
  + Coracten (UCB)
  + Nifedipress (Dexcel)
  + Tensipine (Genus)
* UKMI have issued a shortages memo, which provides advice on alternatives, this is available on the SPS website via the following link: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-adalat-nifedipine-products
* Please do pass on information about this shortage to relevant clinical specialities.

**Imigran (sumatriptan) injection:**

* We have been made aware of a manufacturing issue affecting supplies of GSK’s branded sumatriptan injection, Imigran.
* Supplies of both Imigran injection initiation packs and Imigran injection refill packs have now been exhausted.
* Resupply is not expected until Q1 2019 (January-March 2019)
* Generic supplies of sumatriptan injection in both initiation and refill packs are available from Sun Pharma/Ranbaxy – this product is ‘sumatriptan 6 mg/0.5 ml solution for injection’
* Sun Pharma/Ranbaxy have confirmed that they are able to support the additional demand during this time.

**Diazepam 5mg/ml Emulsion for injection (Diazemuls):**

* Accord, the sole supplier of diazepam emulsion for injection, has informed us that, due to an issue with the raw material, they will be out of stock of this product until early October 2018.
* UKMI have prepared the following advice on alternatives, which can be found here:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-diazemuls-diazepam-5mgml-emulsion-for-injection/>

* This suggests the following products as possible alternatives and we have been in a contact with all the suppliers to make them aware of the issue:
* Buccolam (Midazolam buccal)- Shire are in stock of all strengths
* Diazepam rectal tubes – Wockhardt have the 2.5mg available via wholesale routes, Desitin have stock of both the 5mg and 10mg.
* Ativan (lorazepam 4mg/ml) – Supplies are currently unavailable – see further detail under Ativan.

**Colestyramine (Questran):**

* Teva have discontinued their product colestyramine 4g oral suspension powder sachets
* BMS are currently the sole supplier of colestyramine.
* Due to recent manufacturing issues, BMS are out of stock of Questran Powder for Oral suspension 4g. BMS are currently unable to advise on a resupply date.
* Questran Light is now back in stock and BMS have advised that good supplies are available.
* Due to recent issues with both Questran and Questran Light, UKMi have prepared the following memo to advise on alternatives, link below:
* <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-colestyramine-powder-for-oral-suspension-4g-questran-and-questran-light/>
* We have also made importers aware of the issue and they have confirmed that supplies can be sourced from abroad although lead time will vary.

**Lofexidine tablets:**

* Britannia are no longer supplying Britlofex (lofexidine) tablets due to manufacturing problems.
* Britannia is the sole supplier of this product to the UK.
* Britannia does not yet know the resupply date for the next delivery of Britlofex tablets, but the out of stock period is likely to last several months. This is due to the transfer of the product to a new manufacturer. We have been in discussion with the specialist importer companies about this and they have been unable to source supplies from abroad, as this product is not used in many other countries.
* UKMI have prepared the following shortages memo, which has now been published on the SPS website:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-lofexidine-hydrochloride-tablets-200-microgram-britoflex/>

**Menadiol tablets:**

* Alliance, the sole supplier is out of stock from mid-January until approximately October 2018.
* They are now supplying an unlicensed special which is the same formulation as the licensed product. Please find attached information sheet which was drawn up about the special product. This product is available to order form Alcura



* Other specialist importers are also able to source unlicensed supplies.
* UKMI have drafted a shortages memo, which will provide advice on alternatives, this is available on the SPS website:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-menadiol-diphosphate-tablets-10mg/>

* Please do pass on information about this shortage to relevant clinical specialities including paediatrics.

**Acetazolamide MR:**

* Diamox MR – Concordia have advised resupply not due until Q3 (late September 2018).
* Eytazox\_Cap 250mg M/R- Teva have advised that supplies ae now available.
* Immediate release acetazolamide 250mg tablets are available from both Teva and Concordia.

**Trimovate cream:**

* The product was recently divested from GSK to Ennogen, but Ennogen will not be in stock until January 2019.
* Ennogen have now imported Trimovate cream as an unlicensed product and are now distributing this product.
* A copy of the communication letter with ordering details is attached.



**Trifluoperazine tablets:**

* There have been ongoing supply issues affecting trifluoperazine 1mg and 5mg tablets.
* Supplies will not improve until some point in 2019 due to manufacturing issues with the active ingredient, therefore there are long term issues affecting the tablets.
* Concordia and Rosemont have trifluoperazine as a liquid formulations and good supplies are available.
* We are also aware that unlicensed supplies of both the 1mg and 5mg tablet are available from both Ennogen and a number of specialist importer companies. Under the medicines legislation, doctors can prescribe unlicensed products for their patients if they think it appropriate, but do so entirely on their own responsibility. Pharmacies can obtain unlicensed supplies via these specialist companies or Ennogen.

**Zaditen (ketotifen) 300ml (1.38mg in 5 ml oral solution):**

* CD Pharma are currently out of stock of Zaditen oral solution 300ml (no date available for resupply).
* In the interim, they can provide alternative 100 ml packs for Zaditen Syrup (Origin Polish market), which is now available at Alloga.
* The MHRA has approved a variation for CD Pharma to supply this product, so it is considered licensed.
* The UK stock will be available once all Polish stock has been exhausted, expected to be early to mid-2019.
* Please find attached the information letter for further info.
* Zaditen 1mg tablets are not affected by this issue and remain readily available.



**Eye drops/ treatments:**

**Allergan –**

* **Lacri-Lube supplies-** out of stock for the rest of the year due to a manufacturing issue.
* Royal College of Ophthalmology is aware of the Lacri-Lube shortage and is recommending Xailin Night Ointment. <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/standards-publications-research/quality-and-safety/medicines-safety/drugs-shortages/>.

**Bausch & Lomb –**

* **Lotemax** – backorder until early October
* **Atropine Minims** – backorder until early October

**Novartis**

* **Iopodine ED Solution 5mg/ml 5ml (1x1)** – out of stock until mid/late October due to a manufacturing delay.

**RPH Pharmaceuticals AB**

* **Betnesol Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g -** RPH Pharmaceuticals AB (marketing authorisation holder) who distribute the product through Focus Pharmaceuticals have advised about the discontinuation of Betnesol Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g towards the end of March
* RPH Pharmaceuticals will be launching a generic Betamethasone Eye Ointment 0.1% w/w x 3g and are currently expecting stock at the end of September.

**The following eye preparation are now back in stock:**

* Minims Pilocarpine 2%
* Azopt 5ml eye drops
* Prednisolone Minims – backorders fulfilled with more stock due next week
* Opatanol
* Alomide

**Resolved**

**Alvesco (Ciclesonide) inhalers**

* Astra Zeneca have now confirmed that both strengths in all three presentations are back in stock
* Stock should now be available again to order via the usual wholesalers

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**Diamorphine 5mg and 10mg Injection:**

* Accord have now confirmed that supplies are available.
* Stock should now be available again to order via the usual wholesalers

**Vaccines:**

**For updates on other vaccine supply position, please refer to PHE’s Vaccine Update Bulletin found at the following address:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update#2018>

**Hepatitis B Vaccines**

* Supplies of GSK vaccines have improved.
* MSD allocations remain set as they are.
* A mechanism remains in place for both suppliers to allow for exceptional orders if there is an urgent and immediate need.
* PHE previously developed temporary recommendations on hepatitis B vaccine including risk-based prioritisation of vaccine, dose-sparing and deferral of boosters
* Although, supply of Hepatitis B vaccines has improved, controlled stock management and ordering restrictions will continue to allow for the backlog of patients/staff who had vaccination deferred last year and because manufacturers have not got their usual full UK allocation
* A recovery plan for 2018 was published by PHE on 26th February 2018 and vaccine ordering was opened out in a phased approach over 2018 to lower priority group (4) patients, from March. Priority group 1-3 patients/staff will continue to have access to vaccine.
* Information on the temporary recommendations and recovery plan can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hepatitis-b-vaccine-recommendations-during-supply-constraints>
* PHE have issued a letter to NHS and non-NHS occupational health service providers (see attached document) outlining the implication for OH



**Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV23):**

* MSD are the sole UK supplier of this vaccine and are currently out of stock
* Further supplies are expected in mid-late September
* Supply may be intermittent throughout 2018
* PHE have previously issued guidance to GP’s (see attached document) on how to manage patients if unable to obtain PPV vaccine.



* Updates on recommendations are available in February edition of PHE’s Vaccine Update Bulletin (Page 7)



**Menveo (meningitis A,C,W,Y):**

* GSK are out of stock of Menveo until late 2018 (date has not yet been confirmed)
* Pfizer have confirmed they are in stock of Nimenrix and currently able to support increased demand

**Discontinuations**

**Modecate (fluphenazine decanoate) injection**

* As per previous notifications, Sanofi, the sole UK supplier of fluphenazine decanoate injection are discontinuing their product Modecate.
* Further information about this can be found in the attached company communications which they sent out during 2017.
* This communication advises that no new patient should commence treatment with Modecate Injection and that for patients currently treated with Modecate Injection, clinicians should make plans to switch patients to a suitable alternative.
* Initially Sanofi had expected all current stock to have depleted by the end of 2018, however they have received further deliveries and the latest update is that Sanofi expect to exhaust all supplies from mid to late 2020.
* However, Sanofi’s recommendation to not start any new patients and review current patients for alternative treatment options remains unchanged.
* Importer companies have confirmed they can source supplies of unlicensed fluphenazine depot injection from abroad that are not connected to the Sanofi supply chain.

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**Dolmatil 200mg & 400mg tablets (Sanofi)**

* Being discontinued with immediate effect, suppliers are expected to be depleted in October. However, generic sulpiride tablets remain available from other manufacturers.

**Hypurin Bovine insulin (Wockhardt): Update**

* Supplies of Bovine Isophane (vials and cartridges) are now depleted. This is a significant withdrawal from the market as it means Bovine Isophane insulin will no longer be available in any form.  All the latest information about the discontinuation of bovine insulin can be found on the Wockhardt website: <http://www.wockhardt.co.uk/our-products/bovine-insulin-patient-information.aspx>

**Duavive (conjugated oestrogens & bazedoxifene) (Pfizer)**

* Being discontinued in December 2019 due to commercial reasons

**Magnesium hydroxide mixture (Artyon Saunders)**

* Being discontinued in September 2018 available from alternate suppliers.

**Persantin & Persantin Retard (Boehringer Ingelhiem)**

* Being discontinued with stock expected to be depleted by the end of September due to an increase in demand.

**Daklinza 30mg & 60mg tablets (BMS)**

* Being discontinued in September due to changes in prescribing over to newer treatments.

**Torbay discontinuations:**

* Torbay have advised us they are planning to discontinue the following unlicensed special products:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Product** | **Alternative supplier** | **Expiry date of current batch** |
| Acetic Acid 3% | Tayside, Preston & Huddersfield | Out of stock |
| Cocaine Hydrochloride 4%w/v p/f eye drops 4ml sol | Huddersfield 2ml | available until 30/09/2018 |
| Glucose 30% Oral Solution | Other preparations available | Out of stock |
| Mannitol 20% in 100ml | Licensed Baxter Healthcare Ltd 500ml | Out of stock |
| Papaverine Solution for Injection 80mg in 2mL | Huddersfield 1ml | Out of stock |
| Povidone Iodine 5%w/v Cutaneous Solution | Huddersfield 30mL & 100ml. | available until 31/08/2018 |
| Zinc Sulfate 57.5 mcg in 10ml | Contract manufacture not purchased | available until 31/05/2018 |