



8 November 2019

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Medicine in short supply: Procyclidine solution for injection amp 10mg/2ml

Priority: Level 2

Valid until: March 2020

Issue

1. Accord, the sole supplier of procyclidine injection 10mg/2ml in the UK, will be out of stock from early November 2019.
2. Procyclidine injection 10mg/2ml imports are not available.
3. An alternative injectable anticholinergic agent, benztropine mesilate (unlicensed), is available from pharmaceutical importers.

Advice and Actions

4. Local management plans should be co-ordinated by relevant leads, including clinical input from mental health.

Pharmacy colleagues should:

- continue to place orders for procyclidine injection in line with normal demand, while stock remains available at wholesalers, but not stockpile;
- centralise all remaining procyclidine injection stock, including that being held at ward and clinic level and pack down into smaller quantities before re-distributing back to these locations; and
- consider sharing stock locally with the support of procurement colleagues

Clinical lead for mental health should:

- draft a plan for a switch to benztropine mesilate, in the event of exhaustion of existing procyclidine injection stock.

Procurement colleagues should:

- support stock sharing between hospitals to ensure equitable distribution of remaining procyclidine injection stock if appropriate.

Additional Information

5. A UKMi memo to support local management plans is available on the SPS website <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-procylidine-kemadrin-5mg-ml-injection/>.

6. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and Health Board local governance procedures. Please see the links below for further information.
- [Prescribing unlicensed medicines](#), General Medical Council (GMC)
 - [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 (RPS)

Action

- 8. Healthcare professionals are asked to note the content and actions outlined in this circular and Annex.**

Enquiries

9. Any enquiries should be directed to National Procurement at NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net

CLASSIFICATION OF MEDICINE SHORTAGES

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL RESPONSES
Level one (low impact)	Supply problem with a short duration (up to one month) where <u>immediately available measures are expected to be sufficient</u> and there is minimal additional management requirement.	Business as usual. Response likely to involve using the same medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative strength/formulation available to meet demand, potentially from other suppliers.
Level two (medium impact)	Supply problem where <u>alternatives in the same therapeutic class are available but which may require some management</u> such as switching to those alternatives, which may include unlicensed medicines.	Business as usual. Response not likely to require a change in the class of medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative strength/formulation available but clinical advice is required to help manage the switch. Alternative medicine in the same therapeutic class. Unlicensed alternatives may be used. Issuing a Medicine Supply Alert Notice.
Level three (high impact)	Supply problems where there are <u>limited or no alternatives in the same therapeutic class and which require significant management</u> , potentially including changes in clinical practice or operational direction or that have patient safety implications. Level three shortages also include level two shortages for medicines used in <u>life saving conditions</u> such as anaphylaxis or involving <u>patient groups considered as vulnerable</u> , such as neonates, paediatrics or people with learning disabilities.	Serious shortage situation. Response likely to require a change in the class of medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative therapeutic class of medicine available. The use of a 'serious shortage protocol'. Additional clinical advice. Exceptional MHRA regulatory measures. Issuing a Medicine Supply Alert Notice.
Level four (critical impact)	Supply problems where there is <u>no viable therapeutic alternative</u> and where responses may also require support from outside the health system and / or which trigger the use of national resilience structures.	Very serious shortage situation. Wider burden on NHS and public sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-medicine support provided to patients. National Resilience procedures potentially activated – including links with agencies outside NHS. Additional project management or communications support may be required. Issuing a Medicine Supply Alert Notice.