



15 November 2019

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **SYNPHASE® (ETHINYLESTRADIOL AND NORETHISTERONE) TABLETS**

**Priority: Level 2<sup>1</sup>**

**Valid until: 20 December 2019**

#### **Issue**

1. Synphase® tablets are out of stock until 20 December 2019.
2. Other brands of phasic oral contraceptive tablets remain available during this period.

#### **Advice and Actions**

3. For patients without sufficient supplies of Synphase® tablets to last until the resolution date, prescribers may:
  - consider prescribing an alternative phasic oral contraceptive (as listed in the table below):
    - Logynon® tablets
    - Logynon ED® tablets
    - TriRegol® tablets
  - consider prescribing a non-phasic oral contraceptive; or
  - consider prescribing an unlicensed import of Synphase® tablets (see additional information).
  - Prescribers and pharmacists should counsel patients regarding the different brand and dosing regimen prescribed, where appropriate.

#### **Additional Information**

4. For further information on the constituents of phasic oral contraceptives, see the table below:

Oral contraceptive	Supplier	Number of tablets	Ethinylestradiol content (micrograms)	Levonorgestrel content (micrograms)	Northethisterone content (micrograms)
Synphase®	Pfizer	7	35		500
		9	35		1000
		5	35		500
Logynon®/Logynon ED®*	Bayer	6	30	50	
		5	40	75	
		10	30	125	
TriRegol®	Consilient	6	30	50	
		5	40	75	
		10	30	125	

\* Logynon ED® also contains 7 placebo tablets to allow continuous daily dosing.

5. The SPC's for the phasic oral contraceptives are available at the links below:
- Logynon® tablets <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1127/smpc>
  - Logynon ED® tablets <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/1128/smpc>
  - TriRegol® tablets <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4215>
6. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant health board guidance and 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)

### **Enquiries**

7. Any enquiries should be directed to [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot)