



20 November 2019

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Tuberculosis (TB) oral agents

Priority: Level 2¹

Valid until: see supporting information at annex A

Issue

1. Since August 2019 a number of oral TB agents have been impacted by supply issues.

Advice and Actions

2. Pharmacy procurement, clinical teams, General Practitioners and community pharmacists should work together to ensure that:

- any stock holding of TB agents is reviewed regularly;
- alternatives, as advised in the summary table in Annex A, are ordered for the products that are in short supply;
- prescriptions are amended in cases where the usual/preferred product is unavailable so that treatment is not delayed or interrupted;
- management plans are in line with the advice in this MSAN to avoid further out of stock periods;
- patients are appropriately counselled about changes to their usual/expected medication; and
- if products that have not been flagged as out of stock cannot be obtained this is escalated to NSS National Procurement or, in the case of community pharmacy, reported via the CPS shortage reporter.

3. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS 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); and
- [Professional guidance for the procurement and supply of specials](#), Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).

Enquiries

4. Any enquiries should be directed to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net

Supporting Information

Product	Supplier	Current stock position	Anticipated re-supply date	Suggested management plan
Rifampicin 150mg capsules	Sanofi	In stock	n/a	n/a
	Mylan	In stock	n/a	
Rifampicin 300mg capsules	Sanofi	Out of stock	w/c 2/12/19	Order direct from DrugsRUs or from major wholesalers for Sandoz stock. If 300mg product cannot be obtained dispense rifampicin 150mg capsules and counsel patient.
	Sandoz	In stock		
	DrugsRUs	Limited stock		
Ethambutol 100mg tablets	Morningside	Out of stock	w/c 16/12/19	Place orders for T&R stock while available or Kent product if available. Importer companies have indicated that unlicensed imports can be sourced. Place orders for imports if licensed supplies are unavailable to bridge the gap until contracted supplier is back in stock.
	Thornton & Ross	Limited stock expected to be OOS w/c 18/11	w/c 2/12/19	
	Kent	In stock		
Ethambutol 400mg tablets	Kent	Limited stock	Jan 2020	Place orders for Morningside product via AAH or Phoenix.
	Thornton & Ross	Out of stock	Jan 2020	
	Intrapharm	Out of stock	Jan 2020	
	Morningside	In stock		
Pyrazinamide 500mg tablets	Thornton & Ross	In stock		T&R product available.
	Morningside	Out of stock	Late December 2019	
Isoniazid 50mg tablets	RPH Pharmaceuticals	Out of stock	February 2020	Isoniazid 100mg tablets are available from Morningside: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-isoniazid-tablets-50mg/ SPS memo on halving 100mg tablets. Unlicensed specially manufactured liquid is available from Ennogen and Rosemont.
Isoniazid 100mg tablets	Morningside	In stock	n/a	n/a
Rifinah® 150 tablets (rifampicin 150mg/isoniazid 100mg)	Sanofi	Out of stock	w/c 2/12/19	Prescribe/dispense as individual ingredients.
Rifinah® 300 tablets (rifampicin 300mg/isoniazid 150mg)	Sanofi	In stock		Sanofi expect all usual wholesaler depots to be replenished by 2/12/19. They can support the whole market if required. DrugsRUs have stock available but are currently fulfilling backorders only.
	DrugsRUs	Limited stock		
Rifater® tablets (rifampicin 120mg/pyrazinamide 300mg/isoniazid 50mg)	Sanofi	Out of stock	December 2019 date TBC	Very limited stock available direct from DrugsRUs. Unlicensed importer companies have indicated they can source unlicensed imports; place orders for imports.
	DrugsRUs (Parallel Import)	Limited stock	TBC	
Voractiv® tablets	Thornton & Ross	In stock		Sole supplier, no capacity for uplift. Trusts should only order in line with historic demand.