



21 February 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Penicillamine 125mg and 250mg tablets

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: Late March 2020

Issue

1. Penicillamine 125mg tablets are out of stock until late March 2020.
2. Limited supplies of penicillamine 250mg tablets are available through hospital pharmacies only.
3. Further supplies of penicillamine 250mg tablets for primary care are expected by the end of February 2020.
4. Unlicensed imports of penicillamine 125mg and 250mg tablets are available.

Advice and Actions

5. For patients with insufficient supplies during this time, pharmacy teams should consider providing unlicensed imports of penicillamine tablets (see additional information below).
6. Where unlicensed imports are not considered appropriate, please see the UKMi memo for further information (link below).

Additional Information

7. The following specialist importers have currently confirmed availability of unlicensed penicillamine tablets (please note, there may be other companies that can also source supplies):
 - Alium Medical;
 - Clinigen;
 - Mawdsleys;
 - Target Healthcare Ltd.
8. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and NHS Board or 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.
9. For patients in whom unlicensed imports are not considered suitable, please see the following UKMi memo for alternative treatments:
<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-penicillamine-125-and-250-mg-tablets/>

Enquiries

10. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to PharmacyTeam@gov.scot (primary care) or NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.net (secondary care).