



6 March 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

H2-antagonists (cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine) – update to MSAN(2019)29

Priority: Level 2*
Valid until: various, see below

Issue

1. Following supply issues affecting Ranitidine (MSAN (2019)22, and subsequent updates), suppliers of cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine have reported an increase in demand, which has contributed to short term shortages.
 - Famotidine 20mg tablets are out of stock until **the end of February 2020 (Tillomed) and mid-March 2020 (Teva)**.
 - Cimetidine 200mg tablets are out of stock until **the end of March 2020 (Ennogen) and May 2020 (Medley Pharma)**.
 - Nizatidine 150mg and 300mg tablets are out of stock with **no confirmed resupply date**.
2. Cimetidine 400mg and 800mg tablets, and famotidine 40mg tablets remain available.
3. It is recommended that, where possible, patients are not switched to an alternative H2-receptor antagonist in the first instance as this may exacerbate a shortage of these products. There are currently sufficient supplies of oral omeprazole to manage an increase in demand.

Advice and Actions

4. For patients without sufficient supplies of cimetidine, famotidine and nizatidine for the duration of the out of stock period, prescribers should consider the following advice:
 - Review patients to establish if ongoing treatment is still required.
 - Review patients to establish if treatment could be stepped down to an antacid or alginate.
 - If ongoing treatment is still required, then consider switching to an alternative oral treatment
 - See table 1 for advice on oral acid suppressants in adults
 - See table 2 for advice on oral acid suppressants in paediatrics

Enquiries

5. 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).