

17 November 2020

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup (Advanz Pharma)**

**Priority: Level 2\***  
**Valid until: April 2021**

#### **Issue**

1. Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup is out of stock until April 2021.
2. Trifluoperazine 1mg and 5mg tablets remain available and can support an increase in demand.
3. Specials manufacturers have confirmed they can manufacture trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml oral suspension.
4. Trifluoperazine 5mg/5ml oral solution remains available and can support an increase in demand.

#### **Advice and Actions**

5. Where patients have insufficient supplies, clinicians should:
  - review the ongoing need of patients. Where continued treatment with Stelazine® 1mg/5ml syrup is deemed necessary, consider:
    - switching patients who can swallow solid dosage forms to trifluoperazine tablets; for those unable to swallow tablets, see supporting information below, or;
    - prescribing trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml oral suspension as a Special (see supporting information below).
6. Where the above options are not appropriate, clinicians can consider;
  - trifluoperazine 5mg/5ml oral solution, ensuring patients are counselled on the change in strength and equivalent volume required (see additional information below).

#### **Additional Information**

##### Advice on alternate preparations

#### **Trifluoperazine 1mg and 5mg tablets**

7. For patients who are unable to swallow tablets, crushing tablets (unlicensed use) may have to be considered, taking into account the effect on dosing accuracy and patient and/or carers potential exposure to drug powder. [NEWT guidance](#) highlights that although sugar coated tablets are considered suitable for crushing, the presence of coatings may make crushing difficult.
8. If this option is deemed appropriate, clinicians should ensure patients and/or carers are counselled appropriately on how to prepare and administer the dose correctly (see [NEWT guidance](#)).

### **Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml oral suspension (specials)**

9. The following specials manufacturers have confirmed they can supply unlicensed trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml oral suspension (please note, there may be other companies that can also manufacture this presentation):
- IPS Pharma
  - Lexon Specials
10. Any decision to prescribe an unlicensed medicine must consider the relevant guidance and/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

### **Trifluoperazine 5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free**

11. For patients in whom tablets, or unlicensed specials are not considered appropriate, trifluoperazine 5mg/5ml oral solution remains available. Clinicians should ensure patients and/or carers are counselled appropriately regarding the change in strength (five times stronger per ml) and correct volume to be administered.
12. Pharmacists should ensure appropriately sized oral syringes are provided at time of dispensing, to ensure accurate dosing volumes
13. Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on alternative preparations:
- [Trifluoperazine all preparations BNF](#)
  - [Trifluoperazine all preparations BNFC](#)
  - [Trifluoperazine 1mg/5ml syrup SmPC](#)
  - [Trifluoperazine 1mg & 5mg tablets SmPC](#)
  - [Trifluoperazine 5mg/5ml oral solution SmPC](#)

### **Enquiries**

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