



29 December 2020

Medicine Supply Alert Notice

Rifadin® (rifampicin) 100mg/5ml oral suspension

Priority: Level 2*

Valid until: w/c 18 January 2021

Issue

1. Sanofi have limited supplies of Rifadin® 100mg/5ml oral suspension with resupply expected w/c 18 January 2021.
2. Until w/c 18 January 2021, supplies will only remain available to primary care (see additional information section for further details).
3. Hospital pharmacies will need to order unlicensed supplies from Specialist Importers or Specials Manufacturers if current stock holding is insufficient to last until the resupply date (see additional information section for further details).
4. Rifampicin 150mg and 300mg capsules remain available.

Advice and Actions

5. Where further supplies are required before the resupply date, primary care should:
 - continue to order Rifadin® oral suspension in line with historic demand; and
 - be aware that, **where demand exceeds historic use**, a prescription validation process will be implemented. Anonymised prescriptions will need to be sent to Sanofi Customer Services to receive further supplies (UK-GFD-DTPsupply@sanofi.com).
6. Hospital pharmacies should:
 - review the ongoing need for Rifadin® oral suspension and switch patients to rifampicin capsules where patients can take a solid oral dosage form and the dosage required can be achieved;
 - consider limiting prescriptions for Rifadin® oral suspension to a maximum of 1 month's supply to ensure supplies last as long as possible;
 - order unlicensed supplies from Specialist Importers or Specials Manufacturers where insufficient UK licensed Rifadin® oral suspension remains (see additional information section below);
 - ensure any outsourced partners (e.g.Homecare) are included in local planning; and
 - maintain current practice when referring patients into primary care for ongoing supplies.

Additional Information

7. 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

Rifadin® (rifampicin) 100mg/5ml oral solution (unlicensed imports)

8. The following Specialist Importers have confirmed they can source unlicensed Rifadin® 100mg/5ml oral suspension. Lead times may vary (please note, there may be other companies that can also source this presentation):
- Durbin PLC
 - Mawdsley's Unlicensed
 - Waymade PLC

Rifampicin 100mg/5ml oral suspension (specials)

9. The following Specials Manufacturers have confirmed they can supply unlicensed rifampicin 100mg/5ml oral suspension (please note, there may be other companies that can also manufacture this presentation):
- Ascot Labs
 - Eaststone
 - IPS Pharma
 - Nova Laboratories Ltd
 - PCCA Ltd

10. Please refer to the BNF and SPCs for further information on all preparations:

- [Rifampicin all preparations BNF](#)
- [Rifampicin all preparations BNFC](#)
- [Rifadin 100mg/5ml oral suspension SmPC](#)
- [Rifadin 150mg capsules SmPC](#)
- [Rifadin 300mg capsules SmPC](#)
- [Rifampicin 150mg capsules \(Mylan\) SmPC](#)
- [Rifampicin 300mg capsules \(Mylan\) SmPC](#)
- [Rimactane 300mg capsules SmPC](#)

Enquiries

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